Snapshot 13–19 May 2015

**Iraq:** Islamic State have taken control of Ramadi. 500 died and 42,840 people fled fighting in the city over 16–17 May, adding to the 180,000 displaced in Anbar since early April. Access to new IDPs in Habbaniyah, Khadiyah district, is limited due to insecurity, and health concerns are growing.

**Sudan:** Fighting between Southern Reizeigat and Maaliya tribes in Abu Karinka, East Darfur, has reportedly displaced up to 24,000 households – 168,000 people. Those who remain have been cut off from water, food, and fuel aid. Measles cases have climbed to 4,127 so far this year, with West Darfur the worst-affected state.

**Burundi:** Displacement has increased sharply with the worsening political crisis. 105,000 people are seeking asylum in neighbouring countries, including 78,000 in Tanzania, where living conditions are worsening rapidly. Political protests continue in Burundi, despite the President warning that protesters will be considered accomplices of perpetrators of the attempted coup.

**Myanmar:** 6,000–8,000 Rohingya and Bangladeshis – most from Myanmar – are thought to be at sea and unable to reach shore. Many are adrift and in severe need of water and food.

Updated: 19/05/2015. Next update: 27/05/2015
**OVERVIEW**

Health, protection, food, and WASH are top priority needs, as continued violence, looting, and displacement cause further deterioration of an already dire humanitarian situation across the country. Violence between Muslim communities, perceived to have links with the ex-Seleka, and Christian communities, aligned with the anti-balaka militias, has resulted in displacement, targeted killings along communal lines, and human rights abuses.

**Political Context**

Between the 4 and 11 May, the Bangui Peace Forum took place. Moderated by President of Congo Denis Sassou Nguesso, 585 participants agreed on a 'Republican Pact for Peace', which sets the calendar for next elections and revision of the constitution; a consensual disarmament model; the establishment of a criminal court; and an agenda of humanitarian and development priorities (Reuters, 22/04/2015; BBC, 03/05/2015; Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue, 12/05/2015).

Conflict began in late 2012, when Muslim Seleka fighters advanced from the north, taking control of territory on their way to the capital Bangui, where they held power until December 2013. Seleka committed numerous abuses during their advance and rule, and self-defence militias composed of mainly non-Muslims, 'anti-balaka', began to carry out revenge attacks in late 2013. Most ex-Seleka members withdrew to the north at the end of 2013, but fighting persisted between ex-Seleka and anti-balaka, Muslim and Christian communities, and pastoralists and farmers.

The African Union had already deployed troops to CAR prior to Seleka’s assumption of power, but was overwhelmed by the severity and scope of the conflict. The African Union forces, MISCA, backed by France were deployed in December 2013 authorised by the UN. In mid-September 2014, the UN peacekeeping force took over operations under the name MINUSCA.

A transitional government was formed in August 2014. The ex-Seleka rejected the transitional Government; it had proclaimed a de facto, independent, secular state in northeastern CAR in July (IRIN 23/09/2014; Government, 24/07/2014). There will be no national elections before late 2015, and the long duration of the transitional government risks worsening the crisis (Missionary International Service News Agency, 01/09/2014). On 8 April, the ex-Seleka and anti-Balaka agreed to a ceasefire. This was rejected by the transitional Government, just as it rejected an earlier ceasefire agreement (USAID, 10/04/2015).

On 8 January, the UN Commission of Inquiry into human rights concluded that violence towards Muslims by anti-balaka in 2014 constitutes ethnic cleansing (Government, 20/01/2015).
More than 5,000 people have been killed since December 2013 (BBC, 07/01/2015). Since January 2014, 1,460 security incidents have been recorded, including 112 in March 2015; 76 security incidents were reported in February 2015 (OCHA, 31/03/2015; USAID, 10/04/2015).

**Stakeholders**

**Ex-Seleka:** Seleka is an alliance of factions created in 2012 and dissolved by President Djotodia in late 2013. However, many fighters remained active, and were dubbed ‘ex-Seleka’. With the exception of 17,114 confined to three military camps in Bangui, most moved out of the capital and controlled much of central and northern CAR by January 2014 (IRIN, 17/09/2014). Bambari, Ouaka reportedly became the ex-Seleka headquarters in May 2014. An estimated 12,000 fighters make up the armed ex-Seleka, including Muslims from the northeast, and Sudanese and Chadians (IRIN, 12/01/2015; international media, 30/09/2014). Rival ex-Seleka groups have clashed on several occasions (Jeune Afrique, 27/10/2014).

**Anti-balaka:** The anti-balaka were formed in order to counter the Seleka; there are around 75,000 militants, though the numbers are contested, and their main leaders and political programme remain unknown (IRIN, 12/01/2015). After the coup and Djotodia’s resignation, many members of the former government army, the FACA, joined the anti-balaka. It is suspected that up to ten anti-balaka factions function in the vicinity of Bangui (IRIN, 12/02/2014). UN peacekeepers arrested anti-balaka leader, Rodrigue Ngaibona, on 17 January (Reuters, 18/01/2015).

**LRA:** Mbomou and Haut-Mbomou prefectures remain most affected by the Lord’s Resistance Army, which increased attacks as the political crisis left a power vacuum (OCHA, 10/11/2014). In 2015, LRA attacks increased after LRA militant Dominic Ongwen surrendered to US forces in January (BBC, 07/01/2015).

**UN peacekeeping mission (MINUSCA):** MINUSCA officially took over operations on 14 September 2014, under a one-year mandate. In March 2015, the number of peacekeepers was increased by 1,000, to better protect infrastructure and senior officials in Bangui, bringing the total to 13,000 uniformed personnel (Reuters, 28/03/2015). On 28 April, the UN Security Council extended MINUSCA’s mandate by one year (UN, 28/04/2015).

**French forces:** Half of the French Sangaris peacekeeping mission of 2,000 is deployed in Bangui. Its mandate expires in April 2015, but troops will stay until late 2015, with a reduced presence of 800 (international media, 14/01/2015). Troops will begin decreasing their presence as MINUSCA increases the number of peacekeepers to 13,000 by late April (USAID, 13/03/2015).

**EU advisory mission:** The EU launched the EU Military Advisory mission (EUMAM RCA) on 19 January, with the objective of reforming the security sector (Government, 16/03/2015).

**US military assistance:** The US is providing logistical support, special forces, and advisers to African troops operating against the LRA in eastern and southeastern CAR.

**Conflict Developments**

Fighting is concentrated around six central and western prefectures: Mambere Kadei, Nana-Grebizi, Nana-Mambere, Ouaka, Ouham, Ouham-Pende, and Sangha-Mbaere (OCHA, 18/03/2015).

The Batangafo-Bouca route (Ouham), Mbres (Nana-Grebizi), Kabo (Ouham), Moyen-Sido (Ouham), Ngoundaye (Ouham-Pende), Bambari (Ouaka), Kouango (Ouaka), and Bangui (3rd, 4th, 5th, 7th and 8th districts) are all of concern for protection (UNHCR, 26/03/2015).

**Recent Incidents**

Nana Grebizi: 300–400 people attacked a MINUSCA camp in Kaga Bandoro in early April, because UN peacekeepers failed to stop raids by Fulani pastoralists (UNHCR, 10/04/2015; Reuters, 10/04/2015). MINUSCA has set up a temporary base in Mbres, as clashes between ex-Seleka and anti-Balaka along the Kaga Bandoro–Mbres route persist. Mbres is currently under ex-Seleka control (UNHCR, 17/04/2015).

**Ouaka:** A MINUSCA vehicle was attacked on the route from Bambari to Bangui, after alleged Muslims were arrested. Cars were battered and approximately 17 homes were burned (local media, 11/04/2015).

**Humanitarian Context and Needs**

**As of late April 2015, 2.7 million of 4.6 million people need immediate assistance, half of them children (OCHA, 29/04/2015).** Delivery of aid is expected to decline because funding remains low (OCHA, 02/04/2015).

**Access**

Violent attacks, threats against aid workers, and roadblocks hinder the supply of humanitarian assistance outside Bangui (OCHA, 18/03/2015). A rapid assessment on the Niango–Kaga Nze route, in Bamingui-Bangoran province, found that exactions, theft and abuse were current practices in the region (Premiere Urgence – Aide Medicale International, 06/05/2015).

**Trapped Communities**

At end February, more than 36,000 people, mostly but not exclusively Muslim, were trapped in seven enclaves across CAR (WHO, 28/02/2015). As of 10 December, priority areas included Bangui’s PK5 neighbourhood, Yaloko in Ombella Mpoko, Berberati and Carnot in Mambere Kadei, Boda and Boganangone in Lobaye, and Bouar in Nana-Mambere (USAID, 19/12/2014). They require urgent humanitarian assistance, particularly protection, health, and nutrition (OCHA, 04/12/2014).

Since March, Fulani trapped in Yaloko (42 of whom have died since their arrival from other conflict areas in April 2014) have been able to travel into town and resume daily activities
Despite its planned closure being overdue, few have left Mpoko. The transitional government has announced that the site will close by end May (OCHA, 14/04/2015). 18,300 IDPs, mostly from Bangui’s 3rd district, remain in the site, afraid to return home (Reuters, 25/03/2015; USAID, 10/04/2015; OCHA, 14/04/2015; 29/04/2015). A survey of all households previously found that 42% plan to resettle in new areas and 55% want to return to their place of origin (OCHA, 18/02/2015; USAID, 27/03/2015). AVICOM is an alternative site, but does not have adequate services and only 350 people surveyed agreed to move there (USAID, 13/03/2015; OCHA, 02/04/2015). Priority needs include shelter and NFIs, WASH, and health (IOM, 05/01/2015).

**Nana Gribiizi:** 1,584 IDPs were identified on the Kaga Bandoro route in a rapid response assessment, having fled clashes between farmers and anti-balaka. Priority needs are NFIs, WASH, food security and education (Solidarités International, 02/04/2015).

**Ouham:** 3,600 IDPs are in Kabo and Moyenne Sido IDP sites; 5,200 are staying with host-families (IOM, 13/04/2015). Due to attacks in neighbouring villages, 1,060 IDPs in Kaboro village. Nana-Bakass subprefecture, are in need of NFIs, food, and access to education (Action Contre la Faim, 11/03/2015). 1,100 people fled to Marconda on 8 April, following the killing of two men in Manda village (UNHCR, 17/04/2015).

**Ouaka:** Ouaka hosted 57,000 IDPs at 12 March (OCHA, 18/03/2015). In Bambari, there are 9,870 IDPs in Sangaris IDP site; 2,614 IDPs in MINUSCA site; 8,790 at Notre Dame de la Victoire; 9,400 in the Muslim neighbourhood Hadji and Bornu; and 7,900 at Aerodome in Bangui. Another 6,000 IDPs from the Kaga Bandoro route and others from Lihoto subprefecture are living in Azengue-Mindoulo commune, in Kouango subprefecture (UNHCR, 03/04/2015). This area has suffered multiple clashes between ex-Seleka and anti-balaka, resulting in displacement and NFI and health assistance (OCHA, 27/03/2015; 03/04/2015; 10/04/2015). In a survey of IDPs in Lihoto, only 11% had access to safe water (the only borehole in the village has not worked in seven years), and the school has been closed for the past three years (ACTED, 19/03/2015). 1,100 people fled to Markounda on 8 April, following the killing of two men in Manda village (UNHCR, 17/04/2015). Priority needs include shelter and NFIs, WASH, and health (IOM, 05/01/2015).

**Refugees in CAR**

8,100 refugees and asylum seekers from DRC, Chad, and Sudan are living in camps in Bangui, Bambari, and Zemio (UNHCR, 26/03/2015; 17/04/2015; OCHA, 29/04/2015).

**CAR Refugees in Neighbouring Countries**

As of April, there are 461,400 CAR refugees in neighbouring countries, 219,730 of whom have arrived since December 2013 (UNHCR, 06/03/2015; 17/04/2015). 247,250 are registered in Cameroon, 94,020 in Chad, 94,130 in DRC, and 26,000 in Congo (UNHCR, 17/04/2015). The Chad–CAR border was officially closed in May 2014, but refugees continue to arrive at a number of border points (UNHCR, 07/2014).

**Evacuees**

(UNHCR, 23/12/2014; Reuters, 25/03/2015; USAID, 10/04/2015). However, looting in Yaloke IDP site on 21 March raised tensions (OCHA, 02/04/2015). Since 4 March, over 130 IDPs have left Yaloke for Cameroon; at 17 April, approximately 330 Fulani IDPs were left in Yaloke enclave (UNHCR, 03/04/2015; 17/04/2015).

**Security Constraints**

**Bangui:** Security incidents in Bangui’s PK5 region have resulted in teachers fleeing their posts (OCHA, 04/03/2015). The police station in Bangui opened in March (Reuters, 25/03/2015).

**Security Incidents Affecting Aid Workers**

UN, NGO, and private vehicles are becoming regular targets on main roads (IOM, 02/02/2015). Attacks limiting access to humanitarian assistance increased from 76 in February to 112 in March. They include thefts of humanitarian assets and facilities as well as threats to staff (USAID, 27/04/2015). On 25 March, a medical worker was killed at a health centre in Gbokolobo village, Ouaka prefecture (OCHA, 02/04/2015).

18 humanitarian workers were killed and six wounded in 142 incidents in 2014 (OCHA, 01/04/2015; USAID, 19/12/2014).

**Ouham:** Solidarités International, DRC and Intersos have temporarily suspended activities due to looting and robbery in Kabo (07/04/2015). On 9 April, two cars from the Central African Red Cross were stolen (local media, 11/04/2015).

**Ouaka:** On 10 April, a MINUSCA convoy carrying food was attacked on the route from Bambari to Bangui (local media, 11/04/2015).

**Disasters**

**Ouham:** On 23 April, a severe storm hit Moyenne Sido, affecting 3,500 individuals (IOM, 27/04/2015).

**Displacement**

It was estimated in March 2014 that 80–85% of Bangui’s minority Muslim population had fled or been evacuated.

**IDPs**

**As of 29 April, there are 436,300 IDPs in CAR.** Some 177,500 are living in 108 sites countrywide (including Bimbo and Bangui), 225,000 people with host families, and 35,700 people in the forest (OCHA, 07/01/2015; 04/02/2015; 29/04/2015; UNHCR, 03/04/2015; 21/04/2015).

**Bangui:** Relative improvements in the security conditions of some neighbourhoods outside Bangui have reduced IDP numbers in Bangui to 43,500 in 34 sites (OCHA, 14/04/2015; 17/04/2015; 29/04/2015). Some suggest this drop may be due to the poor condition of IDP sites (OCHA, 04/03/2015; IOM, 02/03/2015; UNHCR, 03/04/2015).
At 8 December, there were 132,414 evacuees from CAR, including third-country nationals and returning migrants (OCHA, 08/12/2014).

**Returnees**

There are approximately 94,500 returnees in CAR (OCHA, 31/03/2015). At the beginning of March, people were returning to their districts of origin from displacement sites in Bangui, but many believe this is due to the deteriorating situation of IDP sites and not to improved security (OCHA, 18/03/2015).

**Mboromo:** 2,980 returnees in Debissaka village, Rafai subprefecture, still fear Ugandan militant attacks. Needs include NFIs, safe water, and access to school (ACTED, 22/04/2015).

**Ouham:** 10% of the IDPs had to return to Batangafo neighbourhoods to torrential rains (OCHA, 06/05/2015). Approximately 4,200 other IDPs have returned home from Kabo for lack of farming space. An estimated 7,000 people have returned to Kouki village, Nana Bakassa subprefecture (1,400 of the original 1,800 households). They are in need of NFIs, food, and health assistance. Child mortality is high (ACF, 22/04/2015). An assessment of Markounda town in April found that more than 3,300 returnees lacked access to health services and safe drinking water (USAID, 27/04/2015).

An assessment of Batangafo-Ouandago showed that 439 returnee households, 2,200 people, need NFIs and shelter reconstruction assistance (DRC, 21/03/2015).

**Food Security**

The lean season has begun and is due to last until August 2015. As of 4 March, about 1.5 million people (33% of the total population) are in need of food assistance, the most insecure being households headed by women, displaced people or returnees, and those without financial resources (OCHA, 04/02/2015; 04/03/2015; FEWSNET, 20/04/2015). Households in the north and northwest and IDPs throughout the country need assistance to prevent further negative coping mechanisms (FEWSNET, 01/04/2015). About 19% of people in rural areas are in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) and 12% in Phase 4 (Emergency) (OCHA, 04/03/2015). Most IDPs were categorised as IPC Phase 3 in March 2015.

**Outlook**

Most of the population will face Crisis conditions, with a minority of households facing Emergency conditions until August 2015 (FEWSNET, 13/03/2015). This is worse than the five-year average and a result of insecurity and below-average crop production, food stocks, and household incomes (FEWSNET, 22/01/2015; 13/03/2015).

**Agriculture and Markets**

Food access is restrained by reduced food production, lack of livelihoods, and high food prices (OCHA, 18/12/2014; FAO, 26/01/2015). Food crop production in 2014 was 58% below average, as a result of insecurity, looting, and the killing of livestock (OCHA, 04/03/2015). Food stocks in rural areas are 40–50% below average due to recurring raids. Fish supply has fallen by 40% and cattle-breeding by 77% compared to pre-crisis levels, and insecurity and poor road conditions have disrupted market linkages and led to significant increases in food prices: prices from March to August 2014 increased 30–70% (FAO, 26/01/2015; OCHA, 18/12/2014).

**Health and Nutrition**

As of December 2014, two million people need access to health services (OCHA, 19/11/2014; OCHA 22/12/2014). 55% of health facilities are functioning (WHO, 27/04/2015). Only 25% of those offering services have functioning sources of energy, and 21% have access to water (WHO, 31/12/2014). Many health centres have been out of essential drugs for months due to access constraints. Shortages of drugs and qualified staff have been severe in Dekoa, Mala and Ndoukou (Kemo) (IFRC, 05/12/2014; OCHA, 29/04/2015). There is a lack of access to health services in IDP sites and in the subprefectures of Mbres, Batangafo, and Kouango due to increased insecurity (WHO, 31/10/2014; OCHA, 29/04/2015).

More than 15,000 IDPs from Ngakobo in Ouaka prefecture and health district do not have access to healthcare services (OCHA, 14/04/2015).

**Nutrition**

Based on a national survey, the country has 6.5% severe acute malnutrition (SAM) (UNICEF, 08/01/2015). In 2015, 22,700 children under five will suffer from SAM and 47,000 from MAM (OCHA, 29/04/2015). In 2014, 28,000 children were severely malnourished and 75,500 moderately malnourished (OCHA, 04/12/2014; 18/12/2014).

More than 2% of children are malnourished in seven prefectures, compared to only two prefectures in 2012 (UNICEF, 17/02/2015). According to the preliminary results of a SMART survey, there has been a reduction in GAM in Bangui, from 8% in 2012 to around 5% in 2014, likely due to the concentration of humanitarian activities in the city (WFP, 23/09/2014).

**WASH**

2.3 million people do not have access to improved safe water or improved sanitation (OCHA, 23/09/2014; 22/12/2014). 1.4 million people are targeted for WASH assistance in 2015 (OCHA, 29/04/2015).

In Bangui, Sangaris site has 6.8L of water/person/day; MINUSCA has 10L/person/day; and Muslim neighbourhoods have 2.2L/person/day.

In Lihotom, Ouaka prefecture, only 11% of the households surveyed have access to potable water, and the only borehole in the village hasn’t worked in seven years (ACTED, 04/03/2015).

**Shelter and NFIs**

200 new IDPs in Notre-Dame de la Victoire IDP site in Bambari, Ouaka, need shelter and NFI assistance as well as 2,000 households in Nola, Sangha Mbaere, and Mala, Kemo.
Education

Over 1.4 million children are in need of education (OCHA, 22/12/2014). Only 6,000–10,000 children were enrolled in school 2012–2014 (IRIN, 12/01/2015).

Only 10% of school-aged returnees in Debissaka village, Mbonou prefecture, are attending school due to security threats and attacks (ACTED, 22/04/2015).

In Bangui’s PK5 district, teachers have been leaving due to insecurity, resulting in 60,000 school-aged children in need of safe learning spaces (USAID, 13/03/2015).

An assessment of schools in CAR noted that from November-December 35% of the schools visited were still or had been functioning, compared to 64% of those visited between January and March 2015. The situation varies across the country depending on number of clashes with schools in nana-Grebizi, for example, closing due to clashes in April 2015. Also in the north of Ouham, Nana-Grebizi and Ouakaalong, fewer than 40% of the schools are functioning.

Protection

Crimes against humanity and war crimes have been, and continued to be, reported. Ex-Seleka are listed for child recruitment, killing, rape and other forms of sexual violence, and attacks on schools and/or hospitals. Anti-balaka are listed for child recruitment, and killing and maiming (Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict, 04/11/2014).

21 Fulani herders who had been captured in Ombella-Mpoko in 2014 were freed by UN peacekeepers in Yaloke. At least 100 are still being held captive (Reuters, 19/04/2015; OCHA, 29/04/2015).

Child Protection

432 children were killed or maimed by violence in 2014 (OCHA, 04/12/2014). The number of children recruited into armed groups has risen to 8,000–10,000, from 2,500 at the beginning of the crisis (The Guardian, 18/12/2014; OCHA, 02/04/2015). Eight major militia groups have agreed to free child soldiers and children used as cooks, messengers, or for sexual purposes (Reuters, 05/05/2015). France is in the process of investigating allegations of child abuse by its peacekeeping forces that occurred between December 2013 and June 2014 (Reuters, 29/04/2015).

Updated: 11/05/2015

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO CONFLICT, FOOD INSECURITY, EPIDEMIC, DISPLACEMENT

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

6 May: New arrivals of Burundian refugees and returnees have reached 7,189, and a daily rate of 325 (UNHCR).

KEY CONCERNS

- Internal conflict in the eastern provinces of Orientale, North Kivu, South Kivu, and Katanga.
- 6.3 million people need humanitarian assistance (WFP, 06/01/2015).
- 2.7 million IDPs (OCHA, 19/04/2015).
- Over 2 million children under five are suffering from acute malnutrition (Radio Okapi, 04/11/2014).

OVERVIEW

Needs are highest in the conflict-affected regions of North Kivu, South Kivu, Katanga, and Orientale, where there is large-scale, repeated displacement. IDPs, host populations, and those unable to flee are all vulnerable, as insecurity poses multiple protection risks and prevents access to basic services. Needs vary according to geographic area and conflict dynamics.

Political Context

In September 2014, over 2,000 people took to the streets of Kinshasa, protesting a bid by President Kabila to modify the constitution so he could stay in power beyond his two-term limit, which should end in 2016 (AFP, 27/09/2014). On 19 January, up to 42 people died in protests in Kinshasa, after a census was proposed that could also prolong President Kabila’s term (AFP, 22/01/2015). Parliament voted against the legislation, but doubts remain over the scheduling of the preliminary local, provincial, and senatorial polls (AFP, 25/01/2015).
40 activists, musicians and journalists were arrested at a news conference encouraging youth political participation on 15 March; three activists remain in custody. Four pro-democracy activists, members of LUCHA (Struggle for Change), also remain in detention following arrest in Goma on 7 April; many suggest this is due to upcoming elections (Reuters, 16/04/2015; Reuters, 07/04/2015).

Security Context

At least 40 armed groups are operating in the east of the country (ECHO, 22/10/2014). They range from local militias set up initially as self-defence groups (among them many Mayi-Mayi groups), to secessionist groups, and forces first set up by fighters from Uganda (LRA and ADF/NALU), Rwanda (FDLR) and Burundi (FNL). The UN has a peacekeeping mission (MONUSCO), and an EU mission providing assistance to security sector reform (EUSEC) was extended until 30 June 2015 (EU, 25/09/2014). The UN and the Government are discussing withdrawal of the UN mission (Radio Okapi, 06/04/2015).

The disarmament of the Front of Patriotic Resistance (FRPI), which began in November 2014 was not effective. An increase in attacks in Irumu territory, Orientale has been recorded (OCHA, 19/04/2015).

Democratic Forcess for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR) are mainly Hutu Rwandans who were allegedly linked to the genocide. An estimated 1,400 fighters are active, primarily in the Kivu region (Reuters, 22/03/2015).

Mayi-Mayi: At least 20 Mayi-Mayi groups, formed by local leaders along ethnic lines, are active in North Kivu, South Kivu, and Katanga. The number of fighters can range from 100 to 1,000 (AFP 2013).

Allied Democratic Forces/National Army for the Liberation of Uganda (ADF/NALU) is a Muslim militant group founded in the 1990s. MONUSCO and the FARDC launched a second operation in North Kivu to neutralise the group in January 2015 (Radio Okapi, 07/01/2015). ADF activity decreased in January, but by early February attacks against villages in Beni territory had increased (AFP, 04/02/2015; 20/03/2015).

Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA), founded by Joseph Kony in Uganda in 1987, has spread to South Sudan and subsequently to DRC and CAR (IRIN).

National Liberation Forces (FNL) are Burundian militants based in South Kivu (AFP 2013).

The armed forces of the DRC (FARDC) comprise 120,000–130,000 fighters (Defence Web, 2013). Seven army and police officers were banned from receiving MONUSCO support in March 2015 because they pose a risk of committing human rights violations (Reuters, 11/03/2015).

The UN Stabilization Mission in DRC (MONUSCO) is made up of almost 18,000 troops, as well as military observers and police units (OCHA, 19/04/2015). The initial mission, MONUC, was established after the signing of the 1999 peace agreement between DRC and five regional states. In March 2014 its mandate was expanded, with the creation of an Intervention Brigade, charged with neutralising armed groups (RFI, 20/10/2014). MONUSCO’s mandate was extended for another year in March 2015, although its force was cut by 2,000 troops (Reuters, 26/03/2015; AFP, 26/03/2015).

Conflict Developments

An FARDC offensive on the FDLR began on 24 February in South Kivu, then moving to North Kivu territory, where most FDLR operate (AFP, 23/02/2015, 24/02/2015; 26/02/2015). Recent reports suggest that most FDLR are fleeing into the forest rather than risking combat (Reuters, 08/04/2015).

North Kivu

MONUSCO is preparing for voluntary disarmament of ADF and FDLR militants in Beni and Lubero territories (Radio Okapi, 24/04/2015). Since January, more than 60 people have been killed and around 80 kidnapped (OCHA, 23/04/2015). In Lubero territory, FDLR presence has been reported in the communities of Rusamambo, Bukumbirwa, Kasiki, Luhanga and Buleusa, where the FDLR accuses youth of collaborating with Mayi-Mayi militants (local media, 07/05/2015).

Beni territory: More than 300 people have been killed in Beni since October 2014 (international media, 09/05/2015). On 4 May, armed men fired at a MONUSCO helicopter in Oicha (UN, 04/05/2015). The UN has deployed reinforcements to Beni after suspected ADF killed two peacekeepers and three civilians, and injured 13 others on 5 May near Eringeti town. Four peacekeepers are missing (Reuters, 06/05/2015; RFI, 06/05/2015; international media, 06/05/2015). In April, 33 people were killed (AFP, 24/04/2015; OCHA, 23/04/2015). 200 Ugandan defence force soldiers were reportedly seen in Beni in April (Radio Okapi, 24/04/2015).

Masisi: Renewed fighting broke out mid-March between the Alliance of Patriots for a Free and Sovereign Congo (APCLS) and FARDC around Butemure (UNICEF, 31/03/2015). Communities in Masisi territory say they have seen FDLR activity despite the FARDC is making a second operation in North Kivu to neutralise the group in January 2015 (Radio Okapi, 07/01/2015). ADF activity decreased in January, but by early February attacks against villages in Beni territory had increased (AFP, 04/02/2015; 20/03/2015).

Rutshuru: Tribal tensions between Hutus and Nande have halted social and economic activities in Nyamilima. Several families sought refuge in the church (local media, 04/05/2015). Armed men kidnapped more than 60 people on 15–16 April (OCHA, 23/04/2015). Six UN peacekeepers were injured in an ambush on the night of 8 April (10/04/2015).

Orientale

The Front of Patriotic Resistance in Ituri (FRPI), LRA, and Mayi-Mayi Simba are all active in Orientale.

FRPI: FRPI has increased attacks on the civilian population in Irumu territory (Radio Okapi, 09/04/2015). 200,000 people are vulnerable to attack (OCHA, 21/04/2015). Armed groups have attacked IDP camps in Irumu territory seven times since the beginning of
March, the last being on the night of 7–8 April (OCHA, 14/04/2015).

Mayi-Mayi: On 12 April, the Mayi Mayi Simba attacked some localities in Mambasa territory dressed as FARDC, killing five, kidnapping others, and raping five women (Radio Okapi, 16/04/2015).

Katanga

Active armed groups in Katanga include the Mayi Mayi Kata Katanga, the Mayi Mayi Gedeon, and the Corak Kata Katanga. Since January, the Luba and Pygmies (Batwa) have frequently clashed in Kalemie, Manono, and Nyunzu territories (OCHA, 08/04/2015). 55 people were killed in Pygmy attacks in February and March (Radio Okapi, 20/02/2015; AFP, 25/02/2015; Radio Okapi, 11/03/2015).

In Nyunzu, Luba burned several shelters in an IDP camp in May. Women and children are now hosted in a warehouse and require assistance (ECHO, 05/05/2015; OCHA, 06/05/2015). On 1 May, pygmy militants burned 28 Luba homes in Kazala locality, Manono territory. Following the attack, clashes between pygmies and Luba killed eight and injured 30 (local media, 07/05/2015).

On 14 April, Mujinya IDP site was pillaged by alleged FARDC, causing renewed displacement (OCHA, 29/04/2015).

Since early 2015, Katanga’s triangle of death (Pweto, Manono and Moba territories) has experienced a decrease in Mayi Mayi attacks (Radio Okapi, 17/03/2015).

Humanitarian Context and Needs

6.3 million people need humanitarian assistance (WFP, 06/01/2015).

Access

The mountainous and volcanic terrain, and lack of tarred roads, limit access across DRC, and access worsens during the rainy season. In the east, insecurity is a major constraint.

North Kivu: Humanitarians are leaving areas of Masisi territory due to insecurity (Radio Okapi, 27/03/2015).

Katanga: An important trade route connecting the villages of Kabwela and Kakuyu in Katanga has reopened after being cleared of landmines (Mines Advisory Group, 17/03/2015). ACTED suspended its activity in Pweto after 14 April due to threats (OCHA, 29/04/2015).

Security Incidents Affecting Aid Workers

From January to end March, 37 incidents against humanitarian actors were recorded (OCHA, 30/04/2015). There were 35 incidents against humanitarians in North Kivu alone over 14–30 April (OCHA, 30/04/2015). Humanitarian agencies are reporting an increase in kidnapping, robbery and extortion cases in Rutshuru and Walikale territories, North Kivu (USAID, 15/04/2015).

In 2014, 188 incidents involved aid workers; six aid workers were killed (OCHA, 15/12/2014). North Kivu registered 120 security incidents against humanitarian aid workers in 2014, mainly in the city of Goma and Masisi territory (OCHA, 27/01/2015).

Disasters

Floods

Katanga: 48,000 people were affected by floods due to heavy rains in January, including 30,000 who were left without shelter in Bukama, Kabalo, Kasaji, Kasenga, Mulono and Malemba Nkulu territories (OCHA, 12/02/2015; 18/03/2015). More than 5,000 homes were destroyed by rains in Haut Lomami.

Orientale: Heavy rains in Durba on 3 April destroyed 85 homes, leaving more than 400 people without shelter (Radio Okapi, 03/04/2015).

South Kivu: Heavy rains have left approximately 9,700 people without shelter. 16 have died and 12 are missing. Humanitarian access is very limited due to poor road conditions and damage to Kamvimvira and Kawizi bridges, Uvira territory (OCHA, 10/04/2015). In Uvira, rains in March destroyed 1,230 homes, 14 schools, and 850 latrines. In Fizi, 20 died, and 2,300 homes, four schools, and 300 hectares of crops were destroyed (OCHA, 23/04/2015).

Displacement

IDPs

At end April, there were 2.7 million IDPs in DRC, including 121,000 displaced between January and March 2015 (OCHA, 30/04/2015). 37,800 were displaced between October and December 2014, 609,600 over all 2014 (UNHCR, 28/02/2015; OCHA, 19/04/2015; OCHA, 21/01/2015; 28/02/2015; 08/04/2015; 14/04/2015; 23/04/2015). 80% of IDPs are hosted by families and communities who are already facing chronic food insecurity and limited access to services and livelihood opportunities (FAO, 20/11/2014).

North Kivu

North Kivu hosts 1,003,250 IDPs, including 60,450 newly displaced in March (OCHA, 17/01/2015; 28/02/2015; 08/04/2015; 14/04/2015; 23/04/2015). 78% live with host families and 22% in IDP sites, most of which are near Goma. Authorities are moving to close the sites down for security reasons (OCHA, 28/02/2015; AFP, 03/12/2014). The IDP breakdown per region is: 19,300 in Goma city; 172,500 in Beni; 158,500 in Lubero; 238,800 in Masisi; 103,500 in Rutshuru; and 249,800 in Walikale (OCHA, 28/02/2015).

Beni: There are more than 5,500 new IDPs in Beni territory since early March (OCHA, 11/03/2015). An estimated 45,000 people remain displaced since operations against ADF/NALU began (UNICEF, 31/03/2015).

Lubero: There are about 34,000 IDPs in Lubero territory (OCHA, 23/04/2015).

Masisi: Some 3,800 people fled their homes on 6 March because of the FARDC offensive
against FDLR in Kitchanga and Bibwe (OCHA, 11/03/2015). 1,200 people have fled clashes between FARDC and APCLS (OCHA, 24/03/2015).

Walikale: 5,300 IDPs were reported in west Walikale and are living with host families (OCHA, 17/03/2015). Approximately 550 IDPs have been identified in Kibua centre (OCHA, 08/04/2015). Some 1,660 IDPs have been reported in Kalonge, Kibue and Limangi on the Mpofi–Kibua route (OCHA, 23/04/2015).

South Kivu

At 31 March, 661,400 IDPs were in South Kivu (OCHA, 30/04/2015). The FARDC offensive against the FDLR has displaced more than 20,200, primarily for the short term. Another 44,000 people have limited mobility. Poor access and limited humanitarian presence make it difficult to measure the impact of the offensive on the population, especially in Mwenga territory (OCHA, 19/03/2015). Approximately 6,500 people have been displaced following clashes between the FARDC and the Mayi Mayi Yakutumba in southern Fizi territory (OCHA, 10/04/2015).

Oriente

As of end March, there were 550,490 IDPs in Oriente province as well as 342,000 returnees (OCHA, 19/02/2015; 30/04/2015). Around 300,000 people are displaced in Ituri district, including 60,000 IDPs from North Kivu (OCHA, 23/12/2014). 80,000 people are still displaced due to FRPFI activities (UNICEF, 31/03/2015).

1,200 families (approximately 6,480 IDPs) living in Komanda, Ituri territory, say necessary humanitarian assistance has not been provided (Radio Okapi, 23/04/2015). Some 1,620 people have left two villages in Ango territory due to LRA security threats (Radio Okapi, 25/03/2015). 1,400 people were displaced from 8–12 April due to FRPFI attacks (OCHA, 14/04/2015). More than 10,000 IDPs in CEBCA, Adventiste, Bolombola, and Ngombenyama IDP sites in Omanda locality refuse to be relocated (OCHA, 08/04/2015).

Katanga

Katanga hosts 460,600 IDPs, including 24,400 displaced in the first quarter of 2015 (OCHA, 19/02/2015; 15/04/2015; 21/04/2015). 73% are living with host families and 27% in IDP sites (OCHA, 21/04/2015). 109,566 in Manono; 94,689 in Pweto; 76,063 in Kalemie; 66,314 in Malemba-Nkulu; 48,084 in Mitwaba; 22,998 in Kambove; 14,510 in Nyunzu; 11,341 in Kasenga; 7,198 in Moba; 5,250 in Kabalo; 2,780 in Lubudi; and 1,895 in Likasi (OCHA, 09/04/2015). From January–March 2015, 84,500 people returned home (OCHA, 15/04/2015).

About 16,500 new IDPs were registered in March in Malemba Nkulu and Pweto territories (Radio Okapi, 27/03/2015). Escalated violence between the Batwa and the Luba has displaced an estimated 42,100 people towards Lwizi (Nyunzu) and Nyemba (Kalemie) (UNICEF, 31/03/2015). Approximately 15,000 IDPs, primarily women and children, are living in poor conditions in Nyunzu territory, displaced by intercommunal violence in Manono and Kabalo territories (Radio Okapi, 20/04/2015). 10,000 were displaced from Kabumbulo toward Kibumba, Malemba and Mwanza Seya in mid-March, fleeing Mayi-Mayi attacks (OCHA, 29/04/2015).

Maniema has 181,520 IDPs as of 30 March (OCHA, 19/02/2015; 02/04/2015; 21/04/2015).

More than 4,000 people arrived in Pagi and Kabambare territories from South Kivu January–March 2015 due to Raia Mutomboki attacks in Shabunda territory and clashes between FARDC and the Mayi Mayi Yakutumba in Fizi (OCHA, 08/04/2015). 2,700 people were displaced from Fizi territory in South Kivu to Kabambare following clashes on 23 March between the FARDC and Mayi Mayi Yakutumba. On 25 and 26 March, clashes between Mayi Mayi Yakutumba caused further displacement in Munzanza, a mining site (OCHA, 02/04/2015).

Refugees in DRC

DRC hosts more than 221,730 refugees (UNHCR, 28/02/2015; USAID, 15/04/2015; OCHA, 19/04/2015). DRC provincial authorities insist that assistance should only be delivered within camps, making it difficult to support refugees in host communities.

From CAR: As of 21 April, there were 94,130 CAR refugees in DRC, 46,150 of whom had arrived since December 2013 (UNHCR, 26/03/2015; 21/04/2015). 30,000 arrived in Equateur province over December 2014 and January 2015 (Radio Okapi, 28/01/2015). Another 2,400 people arrived in Mobayi, Equateur, in mid-February (UNHCR, 24/02/2015; OCHA, 18/02/2015). A new refugee camp for 19,000 is being built in Bili, Bosobolo territory (Radio Okapi, 10/02/2015). The transfer of refugees to Bili started on 13 March and is expected to last 14 weeks (Radio Okapi, 14/03/2015). As of 5 April, there were 2,050 CAR refugees in Bili camp (UNHCR, 03/04/2015).

From Rwanda: DRC is hosting 117,300 Rwandan refugees (UNHCR, 28/02/2015; 30/10/2014; UN 30/12/2014).

From Burundi: New arrivals of Burundian refugees and returnees have reached 7,189, with an arrival rate of 325 per day. Prior to the recent influx, there were 8,000 Burundian refugees in DRC (OCHA, 23/04/2015). Arrangements are being made to settle 6,000 refugees in Uvira territory and 4,000 in Fizi. Most are female and hosted by local communities (UNHCR, 06/05/2015). New Burundian refugees have not been granted refugee status thus far (ECHO, 21/04/2015).

From Angola: There are 560 Angolan refugees registered in DRC, and 28,000 are undergoing voluntary repatriation (UNHCR, 28/02/2015). From 20 June 2014 until 23 April 2015, 15,520 Angolan refugees had been repatriated (2,970 in 2015 alone) (Government, 30/04/2015).

Returnees

North Kivu: In March, there were 445,610 returnees to North Kivu (OCHA, 06/02/2015; 14/04/2015; 30/04/2015). Some 13,000 people returned to Rutshuru territory between March and April due to a renewed peace (OCHA, 30/04/2015).

Katanga: During the first quarter of 2015, 84,500 new IDP returnees were counted in Katanga (OCHA, 16/01/2015; 21/04/2015). At 31 December, Pweto territory had 65,700 returnees (OCHA, 18/03/2015). More than 5,300 returnees who arrived in Kasenga Ngayie locality, Moba territory, in February 2015 need multisectoral assistance (OCHA,
Another 5,800 returnees in Kamena, south of Moba territory, who had fled Mayi-Mayi Kata Katanga violence, arrived in September 2014 and are in need of health, nutrition, food and protection assistance (OCHA, 22/04/2015). As of 31 March, there are a total of 322,293 returnees in Katanga (OCHA, 30/04/2015).

Maniema: As of 30 March, there were 181,520 returnees, including 1,200 since January 2015 (OCHA, 30/04/2015).

Oriental: As of 31 March, there were 333,610 returnees (OCHA, 30/04/2015). 3,000 returnees are awaiting registration in Ango territory (OCHA, 24/02/2015).

South Kivu: At 31 March, there were 209,600 returnees from the past 18 months (OCHA, 23/04/2015). 325 DRC refugees previously in Burundi returned to Uvira territory (OCHA, 23/04/2015).

DRC Refugees in Neighbouring Countries

There are around 442,600 DRC refugees in neighbouring countries, mainly in Uganda (187,800), Rwanda (74,000), Burundi (47,900), Tanzania (55,900), Zambie (8,500), Angola (7,000), Congo (23,400), Kenya (17,300), South Sudan (15,220), and CAR (5,300) (UNHCR, 01/01/2015; 01/11/2014).

Food Security

6.5 million people are facing IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) or 4 (Emergency) food insecurity as a result of armed group activity, inter-communal violence, and displacement (OCHA, 30/04/2015; Integrated Food Security Phase Classification, 28/01/2015; USAID, 15/04/2015). The food security situation in DRC is worsening due to low agricultural productivity, limited access to land, and frequent flooding, with an increase of about 523,000 people in the Emergency phase (Integrated Food Security Phase Classification, 28/01/2015).

Seven territories are facing emergency, including Manono, Mitwaba, and Rweto territories in Katanga province; Punia territory in Maniema province; Shabunda territory in South Kivu; Irumu in Orientale; and Boende territory in Equateur. 61 other territories are facing Crisis (Integrated Food Security Phase Classification, 28/01/2015). In Katanga, 1.3 million people are facing food insecurity from December 2014 until June 2015, 11% more than in the previous seasonal cycle (OCHA, 05/02/2015).

Oriental: Insecurity in Geti area, Irumu territory, is affecting food security, which was IPC Phase 4 (Emergency) in December 2014; 260,000 IDPs, returnees and local communities are affected (OCHA, 19/04/2015).

North Kivu: Farmers are having difficulties accessing their fields because of movement restrictions imposed by the FARDC and the FDLR, who tend to ask for payment for passage (OCHA, 19/04/2015). An assessment of Mugunga 3 Camp showed that food insecurity increased from 48.7% in January to 60.4% in February. Households are adopting negative coping strategies (WFP, 28/04/2015).

Agriculture and Markets

Farmers in Kipushi, Katanga, are concerned about the upcoming harvests in May 2015 due to the current slow growth of maize and beans (local media 06/04/2015).

Maniema: More than 3,000 hectares of rice crops have been damaged due to Whitefly infestation in Klombo territory (OCHA, 21/04/2015).

Health and Nutrition

23,000 people in Masisi territory, North Kivu, do not have access to health services (OCHA, 11/02/2015). The health centre in Beni, North Kivu, has had a shortage of medicine since 23 February due to the rise in the number of IDPs (OCHA, 11/03/2015).

More than 17,500 IDPs and host-families in north Beni, North Kivu need health assistance (OCHA, 14/04/2015).

32 children died from anaemia in Equateur province in January and February (Radio Okapi, 11/03/2015).

576 cases of an unidentified disease similar to malaria have been recorded in Kayna health zone, Lubero territory, North Kivu. The number of deaths has not been recorded nor announced (Radio Okapi, 26/04/2015).

Measles

5,450 cases of measles have been reported since January 2015 (UNICEF, 31/03/2015).

In Katanga, 4,426 cases of measles were reported from January to 26 April 2015, including 78 deaths. In the four weeks to 6 May, 30 children under five have died of measles, and an average of 395 cases has been reported (OCHA, 06/05/2015). 20 children died from measles in the span of two weeks in Malemba Nkulu, Katanga territory. One of the causes is thought to be the lack of medicine (Radio Okapi, 25/04/2015).

Cholera

5,030 cases of cholera were recorded, including 56 deaths, from January to end March 2015 (UNICEF, 02/05/2015). In Katanga, 2,000 cases and 37 deaths were recorded between January and 2 April (UN 02/04/2015; OCHA, 18/03/2015). In South Kivu, 1,820 cases have been reported (UNICEF, 31/03/2015). In North Kivu, 880 cases were recorded from January to March 2015 (UNICEF, 31/03/2015; OCHA, 24/03/2015). As of 6 April, 75 cases of cholera and five deaths have been reported in Orientale (OCHA, 08/04/2015; 21/04/2015).

In 2014, there were 22,200 cases of cholera and 372 deaths, compared to 26,440 cases in 2013 (WHO, 31/12/2014; UNICEF, 24/12/2014).
Over two million children under five suffer from acute malnutrition (Radio Okapi, 04/11/2014). At May 2014, three provinces were above the 10% emergency threshold: Maniema (22.7%), Bas-Congo (11%), and Bandundu (10%). In Maniema, SAM was recorded at 8.6% (Government, 05/2014).

WASH

Inke and Mole refugee camps, provide an average of 10.5L of water per person per day, significantly below standards (UNHCR, 03/04/2015; 26/03/2015).

5,000 IDPs in Bwalanda, Kashiilira and Kikuiku sites in Rutshuru territory, North Kivu need urgent WASH assistance. There is a lack of humanitarian actors doing WASH in this area (OCHA, 14/04/2015).

Access to water in Bunia, Orientale province, is limited (Radio Okapi, 25/03/2015).

Only 40% of the population of Maniema province have access to potable water (OCHA, 02/04/2015).

Heavy rains in Uvira territory, South Kivu, have destroyed latrines (OCHA, 10/04/2015).

Shelter

More than 235 people in Yamwanda village, Equateur, lost their homes to fire during a month of intercommunal violence (Radio Okapi, 02/04/2015).

Heavy rains on 3 April destroyed more than 85 houses in Durba, Orientale (Radio Okapi, 04/04/2015). An estimated 9,670 people have been left without shelter in Uvira territory due to heavy rains and winds (OCHA, 10/04/2015).

Education

7.3 million children aged 5–17 – 28% of the school-aged population – are not attending school (Radio Okapi, 10/03/2015).

Only 40% of school-aged children are attending school in Equateur (Radio Okapi 07/02/2015).

In Katanga, 3,600 students in Malemba Nkulu have not had access to school since 15 January due to insecurity (OCHA, 12/02/2015). Another 6,000 school-aged children are out of school in Kalemie, Nanono, and Nyunzu territories due to clashes between Batwa and Luba, fires, and heavy rains in their localities (OCHA, 08/04/2015). Five schools have been closed since October 2014 in Manono territory, Katanga, affecting 950 students (Radio Okapi, 31/03/2015). More than 85% of the 2,000 school-aged children in Kasanga Nyemba, Kalemie territory, are not attending school (OCHA, 22/04/2015).

Attacks on schools in North Kivu in February are affecting education (OCHA, 24/02/2015). In Rutshuru territory, confrontations between the FARDC and the FLDR are compromising school activity (OCHA, 24/03/2015).

Protection

Military, militias, and other armed groups are all accused of repeated abuses against civilians, including arbitrary arrests, extortion, looting, child conscription, sexual violence, and executions. In Orientale, for example, 12,300 protection incidents against civilians were reported in 2014, compared to 4,800 in 2013 (OCHA, 04/02/2015).

An NGO report determined that 40% of Orientale’s surface contains mines (Radio Okapi, 04/04/2015).

Kidnapping

Between 8 and 17 March, 26 kidnappings were reported in North Kivu, including four INGO staff (OCHA, 17/03/2015). Around 30 people were kidnapped by the FDLR in Rutshuru territory, North Kivu on 15 April (Radio Okapi, 16/04/2015).

Child Protection

4,500 child soldiers left armed groups to be reintegrated into society in 2014 (Radio Okapi, 03/03/2015). In Orientale province, 450 children are still active in armed groups (OCHA, 24/02/2015). From January to March 2015, 924 children were released from armed groups throughout the country, including 809 in eastern DRC (UNICEF, 31/03/2015).

SGBV

Sexual violence has been a common element of warfare by the armed groups and soldiers in eastern DRC since the breakout of war in the early 1990s. Not only is it one of the highest in the world, but is considered a threat to a person’s physical and mental health. 2,860 cases of rape have been registered in Karibuni Wamama hospital in Bunia, Orientale province, since 2010. Due to insecurity, the number of rapes reported increases each year, particularly in Ituri territory (Radio Okapi, 05/04/2015).

In Orientale, FRPI are using sexual violence. In Bunia, Irumu and Mambasa territories, 42 cases of sexual violence were reported in February 2015 (OCHA, 19/03/2015). 90% of the 2,900 cases of SGBV reported in Orientale in 2014 occurred in Ituri territory, the others in Uele territory (OCHA, 08/04/2015; 19/04/2015). On 12 April, in Mambasa territory, the Mayi Mayi Simba attacked localities and raped five women (Radio Okapi, 16/04/2015).

There were more than 600 cases of SGBV reported from January to end March in Katanga. 50% came from Nyunzu territory (OCHA, 22/04/2015). Approximately 100 minors were raped in January 2015 in Kalemie, Moba, and Pweto in Katanga province (Radio Okapi, 19/02/2015). In the past year and a half, rapes of young children and babies have been reported (AFP, 19/03/2015).

1,680 SGBV cases were reported in 2014 in Katanga and 840 in Kasai-Occidental (OCHA, 05/02/2015; Radio Okapi, 11/02/2015). 2,012 were reported in Orientale province, and 1,123 in Bas-Congo (OCHA, 10/12/2014, 03/12/2014; Radio Okapi, 27/11/2014).

Updated: 11/05/2015
NIGERIA
CONFLICT, FOOD INSECURITY, EPIDEMIC, DISPLACEMENT

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

16 May: Seven people were killed and 31 injured in a suicide attack in Damaturu in Yobe (AFP).

13–14 May: 55 people were killed in Boko Haram (BH) raids in two villages near Maiduguri in Borno state; another nine were killed as BH proceeded to the outskirts of Maiduguri, where Nigerian troops pushed them back (AFP).

KEY CONCERNS

- Around 5,825 deaths from Boko Haram-related violence in 2015 as of early May. 7,711 deaths from Boko Haram-related violence was reported in 2014, half of those reported since May 2011 (ACLED, 07/05/2015; 11/01/2015).

- 1.5 million IDPs (IOM, 29/04/2015).

- 4.6 million people in need of humanitarian aid (OCHA, 08/05/2015).

- 3 million in the northeast expected to be in need of food support until at least October (FEWSNET, 03/2015).

- 1.5 million in need of nutrition assistance, including 461,000 children under five suffering from SAM (OCHA, 10/02/2015).

- 2.2 million people are in need of WASH assistance; 1.9 million in need of shelter and NFIs; 2.2 million in need of protection; and 3.5 million people in need of healthcare (OCHA, 03/2015).

- 1,786 cholera cases reported since January 2015, with 73 deaths (UNICEF 22/03/2015).

OVERVIEW

Violence has internally displaced more than 1.5 million people, restricted movement, disrupted food supply, seriously hindered access to basic services, and limited agricultural activities. People affected by violence in Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe, and neighbouring Bauchi, Taraba, and Gombe states are in urgent need of protection, shelter, food, and access to health services and education.

Political Context

Incumbent President Goodluck Jonathan, whose party has led the country since 1999, lost to Muhammadu Buhari from the opposition All Progressives Congress (APC) during March elections. Buhari is a former president and military ruler from northern Nigeria (AFP, 02/04/2015; 11/12/2014). Although irregularities have been alleged and protests reported, the elections did not spark large-scale violence or displacement (Guardian, 31/03/2015).

National organs were accused of aiding APC supporters in Abia, Imo, Plateau, and Zamfara states during the April state governorship and parliamentary elections (AFP, 04/04/2015). The APC won 21 of Nigeria’s 36 states. 66 violent incidents at polling stations were reported, mostly in Rivers and other southern states (BBC, 13/04/2015).

Security Context

In 2015, 5,825 fatalities were reported from nearly 240 violent events involving Boko Haram (ACLED, 07/05/2015). Since the end of 2014, the conflict with Boko Haram has taken on a more regional dimension, with BH attacks in Cameroon, Chad, and Niger, and a strengthened multinational force. With the engagement of regional forces, the Nigerian Government regained territory in early 2015. Boko Haram’s insurgency had gained momentum in 2014, when 7,711 deaths due to Boko Haram-related violence were reported by media sources, over half of those reported since May 2011 (ACLED, 11/01/2014).

Inter-communal Violence

Inter-communal clashes fuelled by ethnic and religious tensions, as well as competition between farmers and pastoralists, flare regularly in the Middle Belt area (Benue, Kaduna, Plateau, Nassarawa, and Taraba states) (IDMC, 12/2014).

On 19 April, at least 23 villagers died in inter-communal clashes between the Ologba and Egba communities in Benue state, reportedly due to a conflict over fishing rights (AFP, 19/04/2015). In March, 118 people were killed attacks by suspected Fulani herdsmen, which also caused injuries and displacement (AFP, 17/03/2015; ECHO, 17/03/2015). In 2014, around 1,700 people died in inter-communal violence (ACLED, 2014; ICG, 01/10/2014).

Stakeholders

Boko Haram (BH)

Boko Haram ("Western education is forbidden") has been leading an insurgency to create an Islamic state in the predominantly Muslim regions of northeastern Nigeria. The Nigerian authorities have been fighting BH since 2009. Their precise troop number is unknown but estimated at around 15,000 (Amnesty, 13/04/2015). In March, BH pledged allegiance to Islamic State (AFP, 07/03/2015).

Nigerian Troops

Reports of low morale and defections persist among Nigerian forces. Failures to act on intelligence, and abuses in the campaign against Boko Haram are also a problem,
impacting relations with the civilian population (ACLED, 31/03/2015). In the past, Nigerian soldiers at times reportedly refused to deploy due to inadequate equipment, or fled from operations (AFP, 22/08/2014).

Regional Forces

BH has repeatedly made cross-border attacks into the Far North region of Cameroon, and more recently, Diffa region, Niger. Chad has been providing military support for the fight against BH since January.

The Multinational Joint Task Force (MJTF) has reached 10,000 military and civilian personnel, including larger contingents from Chad, Cameroon, Niger in addition to Nigeria and Benin (UNHCR, 26/03/2015). About 2,500 Chadian troops withdrew from Nigeria mid-March, with indications they would be redeployed for fresh offensives elsewhere (AFP, 29/03/2015). The scope and remit of the regional force is unclear; failure to maintain control over liberated towns, such as Gamboru and Marte in Borno state in March and April, have also suggested co-ordination problems between allies (AFP, 25/04/2015; 20/03/2015).

Conflict Developments

The renewed military offensives early 2015 and territorial gains made by regional forces (36 towns recaptured in Borno) have prompted BH to revert to guerrilla tactics of village raids, abductions, bombings and suicide attacks, with civilians increasingly targeted (AFP, 23/03/2015; US Institute of Peace, 09/01/2015). BH have carried out mass killings and destruction before leaving villages they raided, such as in Bama in mid-March (AFP, 17/03/2015). Repraisal attacks against Arabic speakers in the northeast have also been reported over accusations of aiding Chad's army (Reuters, 12/03/2015). On 22 April, the military announced operations in Sambisa forest, thought to be BH's last stronghold (Reuters, 22/04/2015).

Recent Incidents

Borno state: 55 people were killed in BH raids in two villages near Maiduguri on 13 May; another nine, including three soldiers, were killed as BH proceeded to the outskirts of Maiduguri outskirts on 14 May, where Nigerian troops pushed them back (AFP, 15/05/2015; 14/05/2015). Over 4–10 April, at least 30 people were killed after suspected BH raided Buratai, Kwaajaffa and Kayamla villages (AFP, 10/04/2015; 06/04/2015; 04/04/2015). Hundreds of people have been found dead in Damasak after BH attacks in April (AFP, 27/04/2015). BH reportedly kidnapped over 400 women and children from Damasak before retreating from the town in early March. Other reports cite about 500 children under 11 were taken (BBC, 24/03/2015).

Gombe state: On 1 April, a suspected BH attack near a bus station killed ten people (AFP, 04/04/2015). On 28 March, BH was suspected of killing at least seven people in separate attacks, including at polling stations (Reuters, 28/03/2015).

Rivers state: Unidentified gunmen invaded Obrikom and Obor communities, killing six people and injuring two (AFP, 04/04/2015). Yobe state: Seven people were killed and 31 injured in a suicide attack in Damaturu on 16 May (AFP, 16/05/2015). On 8 May, a suspected BH attack on a school in Potiskum wounded 12 students (AFP, 08/05/2015). On 24 April, BH killed 21 people returning to Bultaram village in Gujba district (AFP, 27/04/2015). On 20 April, a suspected BH suicide attack injured three outside a Shi'ite mosque in Potiskum (AFP, 20/04/2015).

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Some 9.7 million people are staying in 34 areas worst affected by the insurgency, including IDPs. The entire population of northeast Nigeria – 24.5 million people – is indirectly affected by the insurgency, while 4.6 million are in need of humanitarian aid (OCHA, 08/05/2015; 30/04/2015). The situation is compounded by limited international presence in the area.

Access

Humanitarian assessments are severely challenged as security concerns are preventing access to some areas near Sambisa forest (OCHA, 30/04/2015).

In Borno state, most routes to affected areas are inaccessible. The road from Damaturu, Yobe state, is the only route for bringing food and other basic commodities to Maiduguri and northern Borno state (ECHO, 13/01/2015). Maiduguri airport is closed to commercial flights.

Movement in BH-controlled areas is reportedly restricted, and the use of vehicles is forbidden, most likely to prevent residents from leaving (IFRC, 23/01/2015).

Media access has also often been prohibited, with BH having destroyed communication and media infrastructure (Reporters without Borders, 05/02/2015).

While the food security sector is 33% funded, health (0%), shelter and NFIs (0%), nutrition (10%), protection (14%), and WASH (13%) remain very poorly funded, severely constraining relief efforts (OCHA, 30/04/2015).

Displacement

More than 1.4 million Nigerians have been displaced by conflict, including more than 1.2 million internally and 203,000 abroad. 56% of IDPs are children.

IDPs

There are nearly 1.5 million IDPs in six northeastern states, largely due to the insurgency, compared to 1.2 million in February. 64.5% of IDPs were displaced in 2014. The highest number is in Borno (939,290), followed by Anamawa (222,882), and Yobe (139,591). IDPs mainly come from Borno (68%), Adamawa (15%), and Yobe (11%). 57% are children, 28% of whom are under five; 90% live with host families, while the others live in 42 sites (IOM, 29/04/2015).

63% of IDPs in Borno state are in Maiduguri. In April, some 2,000 IDPs fled to Maiduguri from Gwoza and Bama, where all social services have been destroyed (OCHA,
12% of IDPs in Borno state are residing in 16 sites (114,360 individuals): ten are in Maiduguri. 10% of IDPs in Adamawa state (21,950) are living in 15 displacement sites, mainly in Yola south and Girei, while 10% of those displaced in Taraba state (6,300) are living in 10 sites (IOM, 29/04/2015).

Displacement sites are expected to be closed down in the coming months, and IDPs relocated (IDMC, 16/04/2015).

Returnees

Over 6–15 May, around 12,300 Nigerians arrived from islands on the Niger side of Lake Chad, as they were ordered to leave before planned military operations against BH. Up to 4,000 remain in two transit camps in Geidam in Yobe state (OCHA, 15/05/2015; 11/05/2015).

IDPs in northeastern Nigeria are increasingly returning home despite persistent insecurity and critical lack of access to basic services (OCHA, 28/04/2015). 800 IDPs were relocated from Pompomari site in Damaturu to Adamawa, Borno, Gombe, and Yobe states. Returnees in Adamawa state are in urgent need of shelter, food, health, and education, as villages have been severely damaged by the insurgency. Concerns remain over mines/IED/UXO presence in locations where IDPs are planning to return (OCHA, 30/04/2015).

Refugees

As of 17 January, there were 2,120 refugees and asylum seekers of different nationalities in Nigeria (UNHCR, 08/04/2015).

Nigerian Refugees in Neighbouring Countries

Around 207,000 people have fled to neighbouring countries, mainly to Niger, Cameroon, and Chad (OCHA, 15/05/2015).

Food Security

Dry spells have been affecting southern Nigeria for the past few weeks and are expected to continue (FEWSNET, 24/04/2015). 4.6 million people are estimated food insecure (OCHA, 08/05/2015).

More than three million people are expected to be in need of food assistance in the northeast in the coming months (FEWSNET, 11/05/2015; 31/03/2015; 03/2015). The number of areas in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food insecurity is expected to increase in Borno, Yobe, and Adamawa states until the main harvest in October, as more households begin to face food consumption gaps. Areas worst affected by conflict are expected to be in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) food insecurity in July. Minimal (IPC Phase 1) acute food insecurity is expected for most households outside the northeast through at least September (FEWSNET, 11/05/2015; 31/03/2015).

Food prices are atypically high in Maiduguri, as food stocks within the host community are depleting rapidly. At least 350,000 farming households in Michika, Madagali, Hong, and Gombi in Adamawa state are in urgent need of agricultural support (OCHA, 30/04/2015).

Boko Haram enforces rigid movement restrictions and some limitations on trade, negatively impacting people’s ability to obtain food and gain a livelihood (Amnesty, 13/04/2015).

Health and Nutrition

3.5 million people need health assistance. There is a need to pre-position more emergency supplies in IDP camps and host communities, especially in Borno, Adamawa, and Yobe states, as the IDP population increases with continued attacks (OCHA, 04/03/2015; 04/03/2015). Mortality rates are increasing and vaccination programmes severely hit, with polio vaccination campaigns limited to Maiduguri.

IDPs emerging from captivity, including from Gwoza and Bama, require urgent psychological support (OCHA, 30/04/2015). Most IDPs in host communities have limited access to health services due to various constraints such as lack of information on services and transportation costs (OCHA, 02/10/2014). 3,000 health facilities in the northeast are closed or have been partially destroyed (OCHA, 08/10/2014). As of March 2014, only 37% of health facilities in Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe states were still functioning.

Cholera

As of 19 April, 1,831 cholera cases have been reported in 2015, with 78 deaths (UNICEF, 18/05/2015). There has been a resurgence of cases in Kano and Kaduna states, and there is a risk the outbreak could spread further (UNICEF, 10/02/2015). 35,996 cholera cases, including 753 deaths, were reported in 2014.

Meningitis

As of 22 February, 479 cases of meningitis, with 38 fatalities (7.9% case fatality rate) were reported in four areas in Kebbi and Sokoto states (WHO, 22/02/2015).

Nutrition

1.5 million malnourished children and pregnant and lactating women are in need of nutrition assistance, including 461,000 children suffering from SAM (OCHA, 08/05/2015; 04/03/2015). Around 100,000 children in camps are thought to be suffering from SAM (OCHA, 30/04/2015).

In the northeast, 12% of children suffer from GAM (UNICEF, 13/01/2015). 8.7% of children in Maiduguri and Jere, in Borno state, suffer from SAM, and 27.8% from MAM. The nutritional situation of the displaced and host communities is rapidly deteriorating (ECHO, 14/03/2015).

Poisoning
65 cases of lead poisoning, including 28 children deaths, have been reported in Niger state in 2015. Poisoning is suspected to be due to illegal gold mining. In 2010, lead poisoning in Zamfara state killed at least 400 children, and affected more than 2,000 (AFP, 14/05/2015).

Poisoning

The number of children missing out on polio vaccination because of insecurity increased from 778,000 in November 2014 to more than 1.1 million in January 2015 (UNICEF, 13/04/2015). In 2014, 30 type 2 polio cases were reported, and six cases of poliovirus type 1 (GPEI, 15/04/2015).

WASH

2.2 million people are in need of WASH assistance (OCHA, 04/03/2015).

In 14 IDP sites, up to a quarter of IDPs are living outdoors. Shelter repair is a priority need in 36 IDP sites, while blankets are reported as the most needed NFI (IOM, 29/04/2015). Only 10% of IDPs in the camp were reported to have a roof, WASH facilities were lacking, and many relied on relatives for food (MSF, 31/03/2015).

Education

10.5 million children are out of school in Nigeria, including 60% in the northeastern part of the country (UNICEF, 04/2015).

More than 300 schools have been severely damaged or destroyed by insurgents in the northeast (OCHA, 30/04/2015). As of April, schools in 19 of the 27 local governments areas in Borno state remain closed, after having been shut down in March 2014 (UNICEF, 06/04/2015).

BH has repeatedly targeted schools and other educational institutions. More than 300 schools have been severely damaged or destroyed, and at least 196 teachers and 314 school children were killed between January 2012 and December 2014 (UNICEF, 13/04/2015).

Protection

2.2 million people are in need of protection assistance; women are at particular risk of sexual violence and trafficking in displacement sites, while separated and unaccompanied minors are also among the most vulnerable (OCHA, 04/03/2015; IDMC, 16/04/2015; UNICEF, 13/04/2015).

Islamic scholars and clerics are often among the first targets during BH raids on towns and villages, as they are considered as unbelievers (Amnesty, 13/04/2015). Indiscriminate killings by the group have also been reported once villages are recaptured; between 600 and 1,000 residents were killed in Gwoza mid-2014 (Amnesty, 13/04/2015).

Kidnappings of groups of women and girls by BH continue. More than 2,000 women and girls have reportedly been abducted by the group since January; more than 200 schoolgirls captured in Chibok in 2014 are still held captive (AFP, 30/04/2015; BBC, 14/04/2015). Around 1,000 women and children rescued from BH over 28 April–4 May have been taken to Yola camp for rehabilitation (local media, 05/05/2015; AFP, 03/05/2015).

Women and girls have been trafficked, raped, abducted and forcibly married in areas controlled by BH (OCHA, 30/04/2015). Young men are also being forcibly recruited and executed (Amnesty, 13/04/2015).

Nigeria’s police and military is thought to practice routine torture (BBC, 18/09/2014).

Updated: 19/05/2015

SIERRA LEONE FOOD INSECURITY, EPIDEMIC

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

10 May: Two confirmed Ebola cases were reported in the week to 10 May, both from Moa Wharf area in Freetown (WHO, 13/05/2015).

KEY CONCERNS

- As of 16 May, Sierra Leone reported 12,593 cumulative Ebola cases, including 3,906 deaths (WHO, 18/05/2015).
- The cumulative number of reported Ebola cases across the region has reached 26,885, including 11,117 deaths (WHO, 18/05/2015). The numbers of registered cases and deaths are largely inaccurate.
- Between February and March 2015, 770,000 people (10% of the population) were in IPC Phase 3, or Crisis, food insecurity. 1.32 million were in IPC Phase 2, Stressed. This is projected to increase to 1.1 million in Phase 3 and 1.68 million in Phase 2 by the June–August lean season (Cadre Harmonisé, 01/03/2015).
- The national public health system is overstretched and struggling to deliver non-EVD
For more information on the Ebola crisis in West Africa, visit the ACAPS Ebola Needs Analysis Project page.

Political Context

Unrest and Resistance to Ebola Response

There are concerns that the State of Emergency measures are being used by the ruling party against its opposition. Police have been accused of using excessive force, protests have been banned, journalists have been arrested for criticising the response, and political figures have been arrested (local media, 26/04/2015; Amnesty International, 04/05/2015).

Reports continue of people fleeing from response teams, hiding bodies, conducting secret burials, and occasional physical assaults on burial teams (Voice of America, 25/03/2015). Resistance to the Ebola response is still being reported in chiefdoms of Kambia and the Urban Western Area, including people not seeking treatment (UN, 08/05/2015). The town of Barmoi and the surrounding chiefdom has seen an influx of soldiers and the closure of markets, reportedly in response to resistance to containment measures (Doctors of the World, 03/05/2015).

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Access

All response activities are restricted by poor terrain and a lack of transport (Doctors of the World, 04/05/2015). Poor coordination between agencies and road access issues, particularly in rural areas, can render it impossible to reach communities within 24 hours of being placed under quarantine (UNMEER, 16/03/2015). In addition, poor mobile phone coverage is impeding disease surveillance in Koinadugu, Kailahun, and Pujehun (UNMEER, 29/03/2015).

Food Security

Between February and March 2015, 770,000 people (10% of the population) were in Phase 3, or Crisis, food insecurity. 1.32 million were in Phase 2 (Stressed). This is projected to increase to 1.1 million in Phase 3 and 1.69 million in Phase 2 in the June–August lean season (Cadre Harmonisé, 01/03/2015).

95% of respondents reported in a survey that the food security situation is worse than before the EVD crisis. EVD survivors, quarantined households, people with chronic illness and people from poor and very poor households are most affected. Unmet food needs are higher in areas with high EVD exposure (78%) than low EVD exposure (54%) (ACAPS, 04/2015).

About 76% of Ebola-related food-insecure individuals live in rural areas (FAO, 17/12/2014; WFP, 05/01/2015). Kambia and Port Loko have seen the highest uptake of negative coping strategies, although food prices have remained stable or decreased (WFP, 30/04/2015).

Agriculture and Markets

Following the opening of the border with Liberia, there are signs that markets and trade are recovering across Sierra Leone. Prices of local/imported rice and palm oil are still above average, but mostly stable (WFP, 25/03/2015). In a FEWSNET survey, 53% of respondents reported that the most important market in their area operated at reduced levels in early March, and 10% reported market closures. 35% of traders reported reduced market supply compared to other years. Most cited travel restrictions as the main reason (FEWSNET, 03/04/2015). 32% reported that rice cultivation activities were below-average in April (FEWSNET, 30/04/2015).

Livelihoods

In February 2015, 95% of informants described the livelihoods situation as worse than in February 2014. Unemployment, loss of income opportunities and death of caregivers were the main reasons (ACAPS, 02/04/2015).

Health and Nutrition

The already weak health infrastructure is very fragile and unresponsive. An estimated 3.5 million people are at risk due to unmet health needs (ACAPS, 04/2015). A health facility survey by UNICEF and MoHS show that the majority of health facilities are open, and utilisation trends have increased in all except the heavily affected districts, but usage of health facilities remains lower than before the Ebola outbreak (UNMEER, 13/04/2015).

Only 50% of the population is seeking healthcare, compared to 80% before the crisis. Reported consequences of the crisis include increased mortality, self-medication, increased morbidity, and under-resourced health facilities. There is a correlation between EVD exposure and the severity of the health situation (ACAPS, 04/2015).

The highly affected areas of Western Area, Port Loko and Bombali have seen a 28% decrease in health service attendance as of April 2015, compared to October–January 2013 (UNICEF, 07/04/2015). Most districts showed an initial drop in primary healthcare visits at the onset of the Ebola outbreak in June, and a further decline as the epidemic reached its peak in November–December. Kenema, Port Loko, and Kailahun districts recorded the greatest decrease in use. Services related to malaria and diarrhoea are most affected (ACAPS, 25/03/2015).

In Moyamba, analysis of burial data indicates that as many deaths were recorded in four months as in previous one-year periods. 40% of deaths are children under five. In the same district, only 12% of primary health units have facilities to diagnose and treat TB. HIV cases are believed to be almost completely undiagnosed in the area. A substantial increase in both HIV and TB is very likely, in Moyamba at least (Doctors of the World, 03/05/2015).

Ebola

As of 16 May, 12,593 cumulative Ebola cases have been reported in Sierra Leone,
including 3,906 deaths (WHO, 18/05/2015).

Two confirmed cases were reported in the week to 10 May, compared with nine the previous week. Both were from Moa Wharf area in Freetown and were known contacts of a previous case (WHO, 13/05/2015).

Nine of 14 districts have been declared Ebola-free, having gone 42 days without reporting any new cases (WHO, 13/05/2015).

Healthcare provision: 303 health workers have been infected. 221 have died of Ebola; approximately one in ten of the country’s health workers (WHO, 13/05/2015).

Containment measures: Porous borders between Sierra Leone and Guinea are posing a challenge to surveillance (UNMEER, 15/04/2015). Officials from both countries have agreed to share information on population movement and established screening protocols at border points between areas of active EVD transmission (UNMEER, 07/04/2015; 15/04/2015).

Many checkpoints were removed in response to decreasing transmission rates, though some have since been mounted again (Government, 02/03/2015).

A three-day stay-at-home was enforced across Sierra Leone from 27 to 29 March. Ten new cases were found. There were several security incidents (AFP, 29/03/2015; Reuters, 29/03/2015; AFP, 01/04/2015). In the Kaffu Bullom chieftdom of Port Loko, a group of health workers came under attack, and in Freetown residents and security forces clashed over food distributions.

In August, legislation was passed imposing a jail term of up to two years for anyone concealing an Ebola-infected patient, and of up to six months for anyone entering or leaving Ebola-affected areas without medical authorisation (AFP, 22/08/2014; international media, 30/08/2014).

Regional Outbreak

The cumulative number of reported Ebola cases across the region has reached 26,885, including 11,117 deaths (WHO, 18/05/2015).

Maternal Health

Ebola has had a large impact on maternal and newborn health in all districts, but Kailahun seems to be the most affected. Nationwide, there were an estimated 2,948 maternal deaths from May 2014 to April 2015 – 735 more than is usual in a year. Newborn deaths are estimated to have reached 9,867 – 2,562 more than is usual in a year (UNFPA, 30/03/2015).

Delivery of services has improved: the percentage of women giving birth in a clinic increased to 64% in April, compared to 28% in November. The percentage of women who received at least one prenatal visit increased from 56% to 71% in the same period (World Bank, 16/04/2015). Fear, misinformation, and mistrust of health workers and facilities are among the main reasons preventing women from accessing maternal and reproductive health services (UN WOMEN, 27/03/2015; UNFPA, 30/03/2015).

Family planning services in health facilities have been interrupted (IRIN, 04/02/2015).

Malaria

Since the Ebola outbreak the impact of malaria has almost certainly increased due to reduced and or delayed access to treatment. In December 2014, the number of suspected malaria cases had decreased by half compared to December 2013, and only 20% of those cases were receiving treatment (ACAPS, 25/03/2015). Paediatric malaria admissions decreased by 80% in Moyamba; this is likely to have led to greater under-five mortality (Doctors of the World, 03/05/2015).

Mental Health

There is a high need for grief counselling as a Knowledge, Attitude and Practice survey found that at least 50% of respondents knew someone who had died from Ebola (UNMEER, 15/02/2015). According to an assessment, reduced access to community support systems and normal coping strategies means that trauma due to the Ebola crisis is putting people at risk of mental health problems (International Medical Corps, 09/01/2015).

Nutrition

It is predicted that, compared to observed trends from 1992 to 2012, the number of people who are undernourished during 2014–2016 could increase by 1.30–1.39%. This increase has been linked to the Ebola outbreak (UNDG, 11/03/2015). A UNICEF assessment in 60 of 150 chiefdoms identified 273 (1.27%) children with SAM (UNICEF, 25/03/2015).

WASH

According to a UNICEF survey, about 14% of primary health units have no access to water. This is most widely experiences in Tonkolili, Pujehun, and Kambia districts, where 35%, 27% and 26% of primary health units lack water access, respectively (UNICEF, 04/2015). Furthermore, 54% of all schools do not have access to water year-round (UNICEF, 11/03/2015).

Concerns have been raised about waste from Ebola facilities being dumped in waste collection sites. This poses a risk for health, especially to waste pickers (PI, 20/03/2015). About a third of the population live without latrines (UNMEER, 20/11/2014).

Education

Respondents in all districts have said the educational situation has worsened since the outbreak because of school closures (ACAPS, 02/04/2015). Schools reopened on 14 April, nine months after they were closed (UNMEER, 15/04/2015).

Protection

Discrimination and stigmatisation of Ebola survivors is still widely reported (UNMEER, 29/03/2015). 47% of people surveyed indicated that stigma and discrimination exist in their...
communities: social and family exclusion were the main issues. Fear of Ebola was cited as the main reason for discrimination and stigma (ACAPS, 02/04/2015).

Sexual and Gender-based Violence

According to the Government, gender-based violence and sexual assault dramatically increased over 2014 (international media, 09/01/2015; IRIN 04/02/2015). Stigmatisation and discrimination have resulted in abuse and mistreatment of especially women. Many female survivors reported being afraid of experiencing gender-based violence as a result of Ebola (Ministry of Social Welfare, Oxfam, UN Women, 27/02/2015).

Many sexual assault and domestic violence clinics have been closed during the epidemic, and there is a lack of doctors. Consequently, there is almost no treatment and counselling available, or expertise to provide evidence for trial (IRIN, 04/02/2015).

Child Protection

More than 2,000 cases of sexual abuse against children were recorded in 2014 – a record high. Many more cases have likely gone unreported (Ebola Deeply, 14/03/2015).

Due to limited household resources, children are predisposed and sometimes forced to engage in income-generating activities. Long-term consequences include possible school drop-outs. There are reports of girls have turned to sex work for income. Orphans are considered particularly vulnerable (The Guardian, 28/04/2015). Visibly pregnant girls will not be allowed to return to school, according to an announcement by the Ministry of Education (Ebola Deeply, 14/03/2015; Voice of America, 13/04/2015).

According to UNICEF, as of 29 April, 8,619 children have lost one or both parents to Ebola and 742 are unaccompanied or separated from their caregiver (UNICEF, 29/04/2015).

Other sources reported as many as 12,023 registered orphans, with Port Loko the most affected district (Street Child, 02/2015).

Updated: 18/05/2015

SOMALIA CONFLICT, FOOD INSECURITY

KEY CONCERNS
- Widespread violence and insecurity, particularly in south-central Somalia.
- Insecurity and bureaucratic impediments continue to hinder humanitarian access.
- 1.1 million IDPs, mainly in the south-central region, with high concentrations in Mogadishu (UNHCR, 12/2014).
- 2.75 million people need safe water (OCHA, 12/03/2015).
- 3 million are estimated to need emergency health services (OCHA, 12/03/2015).
- 731,000 people are at Crisis and Emergency levels of food insecurity (OCHA, 12/02/2015).
- More than 218,000 acutely malnourished children under five have been reported, mainly in south-central Somalia (OCHA, 23/02/2015).
- 1.7 million children are out of school (OCHA, 12/03/2015).

OVERVIEW

Protracted conflict, consecutive years of drought, natural hazards, and disruption of basic infrastructure have led to large-scale displacement in Somalia and across the region. Almost half the population of Somalia, around 3.2 million people, is vulnerable to external shocks and lacking access to basic goods and services, with an estimated 1.5 million people living in seven regions affected by the Somalia–African Union military offensive: Bakool, Gedeo, Lower Shabelle, Hiraan, Bay, Banadir, and Lower Juba.

Political Context

Somalia suffers from a chronic fragility of state institutions as a result of two decades of civil war. Infighting between presidents and prime ministers is a recurrent problem. Vision 2016, the Federal Government’s policy covering constitutional revision, the establishment of regional administrations, and transition to multiparty democracy, is opposed by key figures in the state (UNSC, 25/09/2014; ICG, 01/11/2014).

Security Context

About 1.5 million people live in areas that could be directly affected by the Somali–African Union offensive on Al Shabaab (OCHA, 19/09/2014). UNICEF reported in January that the
security situation in south-central Somalia significantly deteriorated in December 2014 (UNICEF, 15/01/2015).

On 15 May, Al Shabaab attacked and took control of the towns of Mubakar and Awdeegle in Lower Shabelle, reportedly killing between six and 15 Somali soldiers. Several militants also died (international media, 15/05/2015; 17/05/2015). On 13 May, Al Shabaab seized a boat carrying at least ten foreign nationals was near the town of El Dheer in Galgaguud region. All passengers were detained (international media, 13/05/2015). On 12 March, Al Shabaab attacked a fortified area in the central town of Baidoa, where a number of regional government headquarters and a United Nations compound and airport are located (AFP, 12/03/2015).

On 28 February, AMISOM forces attacked Al Shabaab bases in El Bar, in Bakool region. 11 people were reported killed, although details of the attack are still unclear (local media, 28/02/2015). A drone strike in southwestern Somalia on 2 February, targeting an Al Qaeda base affiliated with Al Shabaab, killed several, including at least four civilians (AFP, 01/02/2015).

**Mogadishu:** Al Shabaab attacks in the capital, mainly targeting political figures, have persisted since the beginning of the year, killing 76 in the first three months (local media, 19/01/2015; 16/02/2015; AFP, 22/01/2015; 16/02/2015; 28/03/2015; 18/04/2015; 21/04/2015; PI, 22/01/2015; BBC, 09/02/2015; 28/03/2015; 14/04/2015; Reuters 11/03/2015). On 6 May, a government official was shot dead and an AU troop convoy was bombed outside the capital. The number of casualties has not been verified (Reuters, 06/05/2015).

**Al Shabaab**

Al Shabaab, a militant Islamist group and off-shoot of the Islamic Courts Union, took over most of southern Somalia in 2006, seeking to establish an Islamic state. Numbering 7,000–9,000 militants, Al Shabaab typically targets Somali government officials, AMISOM forces, and perceived government allies. Attacks in urban centres and along transport axes are common. Al Shabaab was forced out of Mogadishu in 2011 and Kismayo in 2012, and lost Barawe, Lower Shabelle, in October 2014.

Al Shabaab has carried out a number of attacks in Kenya. On 2 April, Al Shabaab attacked in Garissa University in Kenya: 147 people were killed and 79 injured (BBC, HRC, 02/04/2015). Kenyan fighter jets then destroyed two Al Shabaab camps in Gedo, although this information has not been independently confirmed (BBC, 06/04/2015). Local eyewitnesses reported that three civilians were injured (Reuters, 06/04/2015). Al Shabaab carried out several attacks in in Mandera and Wajir, Kenya, in March, which left nine dead and ten injured (Reuters, 18/03/2015; AFP, 13/03/2015; AP, 15/03/2015). It was seen as retaliation for the death of the alleged leader of the Westgate mall attack in Kenya in a US drone strike in March (international media 13/03/2015).

**SNAF-AMISOM Offensive**

In November 2013, the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) force was increased to 22,000 from 17,600. Its mandate has been extended until 30 November 2015 (UNSC, 25/09/2014). The Somali National Armed Forces (SNAF) and AMISOM launched a military offensive against Al Shabaab-held areas in March 2014 (OCHA, 05/2014). The second phase of the offensive began in late August. Bakool, Gedo, Lower Shabelle, Hiraan, Bay, Banadir, and Lower Juba regions are all affected.

Over 2,200 conflict incidents with humanitarian impact were reported in the first nine months of 2014, including military operations, active hostilities, and other forms of violence against civilians (OCHA, 17/10/2014). The number of attacks and fatalities had decreased between 2010 and 2013.

**Inter-communal Violence**

On 21 March, gunfire between Hawadle and Surer tribes in Deefow district, in Belet Weyne, left 12 people dead and dozens injured. The conflict began last year, over land (local media, 31/03/2015).

**Humanitarian Context and Needs**

**Access**

Between March and 20 April, 343 violent incidents impacting humanitarian operations and protection of civilians were recorded across the country (OCHA, 24/04/2015). Insecurity on the main roads makes needs assessment, delivery of humanitarian supplies, and response difficult (OCHA, 21/11/2014). Al Shabaab has cut off road access to towns controlled by AMISOM, including Rabhure and Wajid in Bakool (FEWSNET, 16/04/2015). Even in areas where there has been no active conflict, illegal checkpoints, banditry, and demands for bribes are common (OCHA, 17/10/2014). Bulo Burde in Hiraan is only accessible by helicopter; Belet Weyne–Mogadishu and Mogadishu–Baidoa–Dolow are most affected. The Puntland–Somaliland border is closed (OCHA, 24/04/2015; Logistics Cluster, 29/04/2015; OCHA, 12/05/2015).

The indefinite closure of Bosaso Airport, Puntland, for renovation, has severely constrained humanitarian operations (PI, 08/01/2015).

**Security Incidents Involving Aid Workers**

On 20 April, at least six UN workers were killed in Garowe, Puntland, when Al Shabaab attacked their bus (AFP; BBC, 20/04/2015). On 13 April, several Somali aid workers were reported missing in Gedo region (local media, 13/04/2015). Somali officials have not confirmed the reports.

Over 40 security incidents involving aid workers have taken place so far in 2015: eight people have been killed, 14 injured, seven abducted and 20 arrested or detained (OCHA, 24/04/2015). In May 2014, a 400-strong UN military unit was deployed in Mogadishu with a mandate to protect aid workers (UN).

**Disasters**

**Floods**
Floods damaged about 6,600 hectares of crops and displaced around 16,500 people in southern and central Somalia in April–May: 8,250 in Jowhar–Mahaday, 3,900 in Sabaale, 2,700 in Galgayo, 1,530 in Wanla Weyne and 120 in Buur Hakaba (OCHA, 12/05/2015). The Juba and Shabelle Rivers have overflowed, damaging crops and property in Middle Shabelle (FAO, 28/04/2015; FEWSNET, 04/05/2015).

The middle and lower Shabelle river basin remains at high risk of flooding, particularly in and around Jowhar town and in Balcaad and Kurtunwaarey in Lower Shabelle. No risk is foreseen along the Juba (FAO, 12/05/2015; international organisation, 07/05/2015).

Displacement

IDPs

An estimated 1.1 million Somalis were IDPs by February 2015, 893,000 in the south-central region, 129,000 in Puntland, and 84,000 in Somaliland. 369,000 IDPs live in makeshift camps in Mogadishu (UNHCR, 06/05/2015). Figures show little to no change in the past year: 80,000 were displaced due to the SNAF-AMISOM offensive in 2014 (OCHA, 04/12/2014).

Returnees

The Tripartite Agreement between the Kenyan and Somali Governments and UNHCR, signed in November 2013, establishes a legal framework for those Somali refugees wishing to return home (UNHCR 15/08/2014). Luuq, Baidoa, and Kismayo have been designated to receive returnees. 3,000 refugees have registered to return, compared to the original target of 10,000. (UNHCR, 08/12/2014). As of 21 April, 2,060 returnees had arrived; 1,497 in Kismayo, 513 in Baidoa, and 39 in Luuq (UNHCR, 22/03/2015; local media. 21/04/2015). Somali refugees in Kenya cite insecurity and lack of earning opportunities as their main uncertainties regarding a return to Somalia (UNHCR, East African, 02/08/2014; UNHCR, 11/08/2014).

After the attack on Garissa University, Kenyan officials said that they had asked UNHCR to repatriate the estimated 350,000 Somali refugees living in Dadaab camp complex by July. However, they have since softened their position (AFP, 12/04/2015; IRIN, 13/04/2015; Guardian, 30/04/2015).

Refugees and Returnees from Yemen

As of 12 May, 4,826 arrivals from Yemen have been registered in Somalia. 1,038 people arrived in the first week of May. Since March, Somaliland has registered 1,550 arrivals from Yemen; Puntland has received 3,276 (IOM, 12/05/2015). On 15 May, 1,500 more arrived and were transferred to makeshift camps. The camps are overcrowded and there is not enough capacity to meet the new arrivals’ needs (local media, 13/05/2015; UNHCR, 14/05/2015). So far, 57% are migrants; the remainder are refugees (IOM, 30/04/2015).

An estimated 236,000 Somali refugees are in Yemen; humanitarian actors in Somaliland are preparing for a major influx of returnees (ECHO, 01/04/2015). They are also making contingency plans to receive up to 100,000 refugees over the next six months (OCHA, 15/05/2015).

Somali Refugees in Neighbouring Countries

972,020 Somalis are refugees in neighbouring countries: at least 423,153 in Kenya, 246,603 in Ethiopia, and 244,204 in Yemen, with the remainder in Uganda, Djibouti, Eritrea, and Tanzania. 3,107 new Somali refugees were registered in 2015 (UNHCR, 06/05/2015).

Food Security

An estimated 731,000 people are in Crisis and Emergency (IPC Phase 3 and 4) food insecurity and nearly 2.3 million additional people are classified as Stressed (IPC Phase 2) until June 2015 (OCHA, 10/03/2015).

About 76% of those who face acute food insecurity are IDPs: the situation is Emergency in Dolow and Crisis in the 12 other IDP settlements (FSNAU, 05/03/2015). Among non-IDPs, 12% of food insecure live in rural areas, and 12% are the urban poor: poor households are in Crisis and a significant number of the poorest are in Emergency (FSNAU, 05/03/2015; FEWSNET, 16/04/2015). With a fourth consecutive below-average harvest in agropastoral areas, both agropastoral and urban households are expected to remain in Crisis unless trade resumes and humanitarian access increases (FEWSNET, 16/04/2015).

Agriculture and Markets

At the end of March, the main planting season began as the gu rains started. The rainfall estimate was moderate in the most of the north in early May. However, little to no rain fell in the northeastern pastoral areas of Bari and Nugal Valley of Garowe. Pasture is therefore less available. Well-distributed normal to above-normal rainfall in south and central regions is increasing livestock and crop prospects (FEWSNET, 04/05/2015; 13/05/2015).

Blocked roads and intensified fighting during the past six months in Hiraan and Bakool has further limited trade, decreased the demand for labour, and increased food prices dramatically (FEWSNET, 16/04/2015). Urban communities in Xudur and Waajid in Bakool, and Bulo Burde in Hiraan face acute insecurity because of trade disruptions (FSNAU, 05/03/2015).

Livelihoods

Following the Al Shabaab attacks on Garissa University in Kenya, the Central Bank of Kenya revoked the licences of 13 money remittance providers based in Nairobi in an effort to curb the financing of terrorism. Studies have shown that money received in Somalia from overseas is used to meet basic needs, including water, healthcare, and education (AFP, 08/04/2015; Adeso, 10/04/2015). In early February, a number of banks in the US, UK and Australia also broke ties with money transfer operators in Somalia (Inter Press, 06/02/2015). USD 1.3 billion in annual remittances, representing 25–45% of Somalia’s GDP, will stop entering the country (OXFAM, 19/02/2015).
Health and Nutrition

Around 3 million people are in need of emergency health services (OCHA, 12/03/2015). As of November, 1.5 million people in south-central Somalia no longer have access to primary health services, and 300,000 children under five no longer have access to primary health services and free immunisation (UNICEF, 31/10/2014). Between January and March, central regions reported 691 measles cases, 1,094 malaria cases, and 692 cases of acute watery diarrhoea (WHO, 17/05/2015).

Nutrition

1.3 million people are in need of nutritional support (OCHA, 12/03/2015). Current GAM levels are 12% and SAM 1.9%, a decrease from previous levels (which were 14.9% and 2.6%, respectively) (FAO, 05/03/2015). The situation is very critical (over 15% GAM and increasing) among Riverine livelihoods in Gedo and Shabelle regions, in urban districts of Belet Weyne and Bulo Burde in Hiraan region, as well as in urban Burao in Togdheer region (FSNAU, 29/04/2015).

A survey conducted October–December 2014 indicates that 203,000 children under five are acutely malnourished. 38,000 of these are severely acutely malnourished, a slight decrease from previous surveys (OCHA, 19/02/2014). The number of acutely and severely malnourished children has declined by 7% and 13%, respectively, since July 2014 (UNICEF, 31/01/2015). This is thought to be a normal seasonal variation.

Education

1.7 million children are out of school. Children of displaced families remain the most vulnerable and neglected in access to education. 78% of children in south-central Somalia have no access to education. (OCHA, 12/03/2015).

WASH

2.75 million people need safe water (OCHA, 27/03/2015). On 24 March, ECHO reported that water shortages in Bay, Bakool, Hiraan, and Middle Shabelle had led to displacement. Ten children died of dehydration in Yagley village in Middle Shabelle.

Protection

The major protection issues in Somalia are physical insecurity during the SNAF-AMISOM offensive; SGBV, including cases of sexual violence during inter-clan conflict; child protection violations; killing of civilians (including children); separation of children; and forced/secondary eviction. The areas most affected are Middle and Lower Shabelle and Lower Juba (UNHCR Protection Cluster, 10/2014).

Forced Evictions

Reports indicate that over 25,700 IDPs were forcibly evicted from public and private land and buildings in January and February 2015 (UNHCR, 28/02/2015). Another 19,250 IDPs were forcibly evicted from Mogadishu over 3–5 March. The majority fled to settlements in the outskirts of the city. An assessment found more than half in need of access to shelter, 80% in need of access to safe water and latrines, 70% lacked access to food, and 60% are in need of health services in the new locations (Food Security Cluster, 23/03/2015). Human Rights Watch reported that authorities beat some of those evicted, destroyed their shelter and left them without food, water or assistance (HRW, 20/04/2015).

Over 32,500 people were forcibly evicted in 2014. The majority moved to the outskirts of the city, particularly Sarakustra and Tabelaha. Others sought refuge in nearby IDP settlements. Forced evictions have also been reported in Kismayo, Bosaso, and Luuq (UNHCR, 28/02/2015; ECHO, 25/03/2015).

SGBV

In September 2014, a Human Rights Watch report stated that AU forces have been raping and sexually exploiting women and girls in their bases in Mogadishu, sometimes using humanitarian assistance to coerce them into sexual activities (HRW, 08/09/2014).

Children

197 grave violations against children were recorded in January 2015 (UNICEF, 31/01/2015). Grave violations include recruitment or use of children, killing, maiming, rape or other sexual violence (UNICEF). In Tayeeglow, Lower Shabelle, an estimated 115 children have been abducted by Al Shabaab, 80 of whom are still held (OCHA, 21/11/2014). 4,314 cases of child exploitation and abuse were reported January–November 2014 (OCHA, 30/11/2014).

Updated: 18/05/2015

SOUTH SUDAN CONFLICT, FLOODS, FOOD INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

9 May: MSF, ICRC and other organisations have evacuated their staff and suspended operations around Leer due to safety risks. The suspension of aid operations has cut off 300,000 people in need from relief efforts (OCHA, 11/05/2015; MSF, 09/05/2015; ICRC, 09/05/2015).

8 May: Since the beginning of May, fighting south of Bentiu has displaced up to 100,000 more people (UNHCR, 08/05/2015).

30 April: An increase in violence and the disappearance of three WFP staff members has led to the suspension of all WFP operations in Akoka and Fashoda counties (OCHA, 30/04/2015).

KEY CONCERNS

- Frequent fighting between government and opposition forces continues in Unity, Jonglei, and Upper Nile states.
- 6.4 million people in need of humanitarian assistance in 2015; 4.1 million people to be assisted by the end of 2015 (OCHA, 08/01/2015).

- 3 million people are in Crisis or Emergency food insecurity in April 2015, including nearly half of the population of Jonglei, Unity, and Upper Nile (FEWSNET, 04/2015).

- 1.5 million IDPs since December 2013 (OCHA, 02/2015). Almost 117,000 are in UNMISS bases (UNMISS, 13/04/2014). 68% of IDPs are estimated to live in flood-prone areas (OCHA, 08/2014).

- 260,000 refugees in South Sudan (mainly from Sudan, DRC, Ethiopia, and CAR).

- 525,000 South Sudanese refugees since December 2013 (UNHCR 04/2015).

OVERVIEW

Jonglei, Upper Nile, and Unity are priority states, and the priority sectors are food security and livelihoods, health, NFIs and shelter, nutrition, and WASH. Insecurity is hampering the delivery of assistance. The UN reports widespread violation of human rights and targeted violence against civilians.

Violence has spread across eastern South Sudan since December 2013. Fighting is most intense in the oil-rich northeastern states. Strife has progressively adopted the characteristics of an inter-communal conflict between the Dinka tribe allied to South Sudan President Kiir and government forces, and the Nuer, loosely allied with former South Sudan Vice President Riek Machar.

Since violence broke out in December 2013, President Kiir’s government forces (SPLA), who are predominantly Dinka and backed by Ugandan troops, are pitted against a loose alliance of military defectors loyal to former Vice President Riek Machar (SPLM-in-Opposition, or SPLM-IO), along with ethnic Nuer militia forces. Despite a significant reduction in intensity from January 2014, violence persists.

Peace talks, mediated by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), an East African regional bloc, collapsed on 5 March, as two parties failed to meet a deadline for an agreement on power sharing and security issues in the final round of peace talks held in Addis Ababa (international media, 6/03/2015). IGAD said it plans to resume talks between the two parties in April (local media, 11/03/2015). Just before the deadline, on 3 March, the UN Security Council adopted a resolution setting out criteria for targeted sanctions on individuals or entities threatening security and stability in South Sudan (UN, 03/03/2015).

On 24 March, the South Sudanese parliament voted to extend President Kiir’s term by three years, thereby cancelling elections scheduled for June 2015 (AFP, 24/03/2015).

Economic Crisis

Following a 60% drop in oil production and widespread inflation, the central bank of South Sudan is allegedly printing money to meet a budget shortfall. The UN has warned of hyperinflation in the coming months (AP, 22/03/2015). The South Sudanese currency depreciated by approximately 26 percent from December 2014 to March 2015. Although the official Bank of South Sudan exchange rate remains pegged at 3.1 South Sudanese Pounds (SSP) to 1 U.S. Dollar (USD), the informal exchange rate reached 8.5 SSP for 1 USD in mid-April (FEWSNET, 18/04/2015).

New Insurgent Groups

According to reports, part of the South Sudan Democratic Movement (SSDM) Cobra faction, based in Pibor, Jonglei, has splintered from SSDM and allied with SPLM-in-Opposition. However, a senior member of the Greater Pibor Area Administration denied these reports (local media, 15/02/2015).

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Political Context

Sudan–South Sudan

Relations between Sudan and South Sudan have been poor since South Sudan gained independence in 2011. The violence in South Sudan since December 2013 has exacerbated tensions, with additional concerns in Khartoum regarding an influx of refugees and arms, as well as disruption of oil flow. Sudan has accused South Sudan of using Sudanese militia groups to fight insurgents. South Sudan has made similar accusations.

National Context
On 29 January, the South Sudanese Government acknowledged the formation of a new armed opposition movement, the Revolutionary Movement for National Salvation (REMNASA), in Western Equatoria state. REMNASA is estimated to have 100–200 soldiers (local media, 29/01/2015).

Security Context

Most violence is occurring in the oil-rich northeastern states of Unity, Upper Nile, and Jonglei. Clashes have intensified since January, with a significant escalation since March.

At least 50,000 may have died since December 2013, although access restrictions make numbers hard to verify (International Crisis Group, 15/11/2014). On 3 April 2014, according to local media, representatives of the Nuer community stated that over 17,000 Nuer had been killed by pro-government forces since December.

International Military Presence

The UN Security Council voted in December 2013 to increase the number of peacekeepers in the country from 10,000 to 12,500. As of 28 February 2015, there were 11,669 uniformed personnel. The current mandate is up to 30 May 2015.

Border Tensions with Sudan

On 8 April, the South Sudanese government accused Sudan of carrying out air raids against villages near the border in Western Bahr el Ghazal and Northern Bahr el Ghazal states. Four civilians were killed and nine injured, according to local media reports (local media, 9/04/2015; 10/04/2015).

Inter-communal Violence

Inter-clan animosity stems from competition over water resources and grazing land. Deaths from inter-communal fighting have increased since the second Sudanese civil war (1983–2005), as have attacks, abductions, and population displacement.

Lakes

Inter-communal violence has been reported in counties across Lakes state since September 2014. In March, more than 100 people were reportedly killed and 36 wounded, as more than 1,400 cattle were looted from six cattle camps in Rumbek Centre and Rumbek East counties (OCHA, 19/03/2015).

Unity

On 29 March, a grenade exploded in Bentiu PoC site, injuring ten civilians. According to NGOs operating at the PoC site, the incident occurred during clashes between two groups of civilians.

Upper Nile

On 22 April, heavy fighting between government and opposition forces started in Malakal, SPLA deployed additional troops outside Malakal to contain the clashes. Separate skirmishes were reported on 23 April in Gelachel, a town between Malakal and Nasir (local media, 22/04/2015; 23/04/2015).

In March, heavy fighting, including heavy shelling, between government and opposition forces was reported in Duk Duk, Renk county, and Manyo county. SPLA ground troops took control of Wadakona town, Manyo county, on 9 March. Many civilians were trapped (OCHA, 06/03/2015; local media, 09/03/2015). Shelling between government and opposition forces in Renk county in mid-February destroyed 18 buildings and forced hundreds to flee, according to UNMISS (USAID, 27/02/2015).

On 3 March, mortar shelling was heard across the Sobat River in Nasir. Nasir town had reportedly been largely deserted following recent attacks (OCHA, 06/03/2015). In March, heavy fighting was reported in GulGuk, on the border with Longochuk county, with reports of local populations fleeing the area.

Clashes between the Government and SPLM-in-Opposition

Jonglei

Heavy fighting and artillery shelling were reported in Canal/Pigi county in March 2015 (OCHA, 19/03/2015). Canal/Pigi and Fangak counties saw heavy fighting and displacement of tens of thousands in November and December 2014 (OCHA, 07/11/2014).

Unity

Renewed heavy fighting between government and opposition forces has been reported in Bentiu and Rubkona since the end of the rainy season in late October (AFP, 10/11/2014; Reuters, 04/01/2014; OCHA, 12/02/2015). In mid-March, fighting was reported north of the Bentiu PoC site (OCHA, 19/03/2015). On 15 April, the government officials temporarily transferred the capital of Unity state from Bentiu to Mankien, Mayom county, due to insecurity (UNMISS, 15/04/2015).

Juba

Over ten people were seriously injured after recent clashes within the PoC site after
Humanitarian Context and Needs

Access

6.4 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance in 2015 (OCHA, 08/01/2015). The delivery of aid is restricted by heavy fighting, logistical constraints, and administrative impediments. In March 2015, 64 access-related incidents were reported, including cases of violence against humanitarian personnel and assets, suspension of activities, and detention of humanitarian staff. A third of these cases were reported in Unity state (OCHA, 14/04/2015).

MSF, ICRC and other organisations have evacuated their staff and suspended operations around Leer due to safety risks. The suspension of aid operations has cut off 300,000 people in need from relief efforts (OCHA, 11/05/2015; MSF, 09/05/2015; ICRC, 09/05/2015).

This surge in violence, including the disappearance of three WFP staff members has led to the suspension of all WFP operations in Akoka and Fashoda counties (OCHA, 30/05/2015).

Logistical Constraints

The establishment of a humanitarian corridor between South Sudan and Sudan has been approved by both Governments and will enable the delivery of food assistance by WFP (UN, 26/08/2014).

As of 24 April, WFP reported that road access was impossible between Leer (Unity) and Mayendit (Unity); Akobo, Pibor, Pochala, and Boma (Jonglei); and Lafon and Loming (Eastern Equatoria).

Security Constraints

Incidents against humanitarian personnel and assets reported in January and February 2015 included assault, burglary, harassment, arrest, and detention. Most of the cases were reported in Juba (Central Equatoria), Bentiu (Unity), and in Upper Nile state (OCHA, 18/03/2015). On 17 February, a British aid worker was shot in Juba (international media, 18/02/2014). In February, eight access incidents related to insecurity were reported in Lakes state (OCHA, 18/03/2015). A WFP staff member and one UNMISS contractor are still being held after their abduction in Malakal in October 2014 (UNMISS, 17/10/2014; WFP, 17/10/2014). Two WFP staff members and a WFP-contracted driver have been missing from Upper Nile state since 1 April (WFP, 10/04/2015).

Displacement

As of 31 December 2014, over 1.5 million South Sudanese had been displaced internally and over 521,000 South Sudanese refugees had moved across borders since December 2013 (OCHA, 02/03/2014; UNHCR, 13/04/2015). Fluid displacement patterns and limited access to rural areas make numbers difficult to verify (UNHCR 11/07/2014).

IDPs

As of 30 April 2015, OCHA estimated that 1.5 million people were displaced in South Sudan: 673,000 in Jonglei, 366,000 in Unity, 244,000 in Upper Nile, and 133,000 in Lakes (OCHA, 12/02/2015). Since the beginning of May, fighting south of Bentiu has displaced up to 100,000 more people (UNHCR, 08/05/2015).

An estimated 802,120 IDPs are under 18 (UNICEF, 26/03/2015). Displacement patterns remain fluid, driven by violence, floods, and the search for emergency assistance (IOM, 03/09/2014).

The South Sudanese Government has rejected a UN plan to relocate 100,000 IDPs to a place of their choice, which included areas under SPLM-IO control (local media, 10/05/2015).

Since January 2015, an estimated but unverified 13,800 people have been displaced due to inter-communal violence in Lakes state (OCHA, 19/03/2015).

117,000 IDPs are sheltering in six Protection of Civilians (PoC) sites on UNMISS bases including 52,900 in Bentiu, 34,000 in Juba UN House, 26,000 in Malakal, and 2,600 in Bor (UNMISS 20/04/2015). The Bentiu PoC site is being expanded to shelter up to 60,000 IDPs (UNMISS, 24/02/2015) By 30 April, 8,955 new IDPs had arrived in the Malakal PoC site (UNMISS, 23/04/2015). The rate of new arrivals in Bentiu PoC has decreased because it is so close to fighting, with only three households arriving in the week ending 6 May who had fled inter-communal fighting in Rubkona and Mayom counties, in Unity state (UNHCR, 06/05/2015). Between 29 April and 5 May, 383 new refugees were registered in Yida camp (UNHCR, 06/05/2015).

261,925 refugees are in South Sudan: 235,000 are from Sudan, 15,500 from DRC, 4,900 from Ethiopia, and 2,040 from CAR. Over 134,000 refugees are based in Upper Nile and around 96,500 in Unity (UNHCR, 19/04/2015; 30/04/2015). Most of the Sudanese refugees in Upper Nile state reside in four refugee camps in Maban county (OCHA, 03/04/2014).

Between 29 April and 5 May, 383 new refugees were registered in Yida. Between December and April, 10,323 new refugees arrived in Yida (UNCHR, 06/05/2015). Arrival rates have increased sharply in 2015. Of the new arrivals in Yida between 20 and 26 February, 65% were women and children (OCHA, 21/02/2015). Refugees cited...
aerial bombardments, ground attacks and lack of livelihood and education opportunities as reasons for leaving (UNHCR, 30/01/2015).

The South Sudanese Government wants to close Yida camp by June 2015 and relocate refugees to other camps. The South Sudan Government and UNHCR have agreed to expand Ajuong Thok refugee camp to accommodate up to 40,000 people. 520 were transferred from Yida in early May (UNCHR, 06/05/2015). Pamyr, a new site 8km from Yida, has been identified as a potential refugee camp (UNHCR, 19/02/2015).

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Returnees

As of 28 August 2014, 186,000 people had returned since the beginning of the crisis: 70,000 in Jonglei, 109,000 in Unity, and 5,000 in Northern Bahr el Ghazal (OCHA, 28/08/2014).

Earlier reports indicated a total of 1.9 million returnees from Sudan since 2007.

South Sudan Refugees in Other Countries

525,000 South Sudanese have sought refuge in neighbouring countries since the onset of the conflict (UNHCR, 24/04/2015).

Sudan: 131,000 South Sudanese nationals have arrived in Sudan since 15 December 2013 (UNHCR, 15/04/2015). In December, more than 2,000 were registered per week but since mid-January the numbers have increased less drastically (UNHCR, 29/01/2015). A new spike of more than 5,000 new refugees was reported between 8 and 13 March. These new arrivals were most likely fleeing the fighting in Manyo county, Upper Nile state (OCHA, 15/03/2015). Between 9 and 24 April, 5,000 more refugees arrived from Upper Nile state (UNHCR, 24/04/2015).

As of late March, the Sudanese Government has refused to recognise South Sudanese nationals as refugees and instead considers them to be Sudanese citizens (UNHCR, 03/04/2014). UNHCR declared this constitutes an obstacle to accessing humanitarian assistance.

Ethiopia: 201,000 South Sudanese refugees (UNHCR, 24/04/2015).

Uganda: 147,000 refugees (UNHCR, 23/04/2015).

Kenya: 45,000 refugees (UNHCR, 24/04/2015).

Food Security

Three million people were in food security Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or Emergency (IPC Phase 4) levels in April 2015 (FEWSNET, 18/04/2015).

Food security is expected to have to Emergency (IPC Phase 4) in several counties in Unity, Jonglei and Upper Nile state during April (FEWSNET, 23/02/2015). An early onset of the lean season is expected, and an estimated 3.5 million people will be in Crisis and Emergency food insecurity in May and June (FEWSNET, 04/03/2015).

The food security situation has worsened in Warrap and Lakes states, as they experienced above-normal flooding in 2014, which affected crop harvests, livestock migration, and disease patterns. In Lakes state, increased inter-clan fighting and cattle raiding has affected the stability of livelihoods (IPC, 02/2015). According to WFP’s Vulnerability Analysis Mapping, 15% of households in Warrap state are severely food insecure, the highest percentage in South Sudan (WFP, 12/2014).

Livestock are moving into agricultural areas, rather than conflict-affected pastoral zones. This has destroyed crops, heightens the risk of livestock disease transmission, increases competition for natural resources, and is likely to have an impact on local power structures (FAO, 12/2014). Conflict has also affected trade flows and market infrastructure, and weakened financial systems (WFP, 02/2015). The country depends on food imports, and a de facto devaluation of the national currency between 2011 and 2013, the reduction in oil exports, and the increase in imports, all have a negative impact on households’ purchasing power.

Health and Nutrition

5.8 million people need health assistance. Waterborne diseases in flooded areas, as well as kala azar (visceral leishmaniasis) in Jonglei, are the most pressing health concerns (WHO, 10/2014). Malaria, acute respiratory infections, acute watery diarrhoea, and acute bloody diarrhoea are the main causes of illness among the IDPs (WHO, 15/02/2015).

Cholera

A cholera outbreak in Nakoringole, Ikotos county, Eastern Equatoria state has claimed 43 cases, including three deaths (case fatality rate, or CFR, 7%), since 11 February (WHO, 15/02/2015). No new cholera cases had been reported as of mid-March (WHO, 17/03/2015).

Measles

A measles outbreak has been confirmed in Bentiu PoC, with 130 cases of measles reported as of 9 April (OCHA, 13/04/2015)

An estimated 10% of new refugees arriving in Yida suffer from measles (UNHCR, 30/01/2015).

Nutrition

As of 4 February, at least 229,000 children are estimated severely malnourished (UNICEF, 04/02/2015). Malnutrition screening of 22,917 children in January and...
February in the three conflict-affected states found GAM levels above the emergency threshold of 15% in Upper Nile (17.2%), Unity (18.9%) and Jonglei (26%) (UNICEF, 26/03/2015). In the traditionally high burdened states in non-conflict affected areas, the GAM rates were highest in Warrap (17.2%) and Northern Bahr el Ghazal (14.6%) (WFP, 12/2014). The highest GAM rates were recorded in Leer county (34.1%) and Panyijar (32.8%), Unity state; Akobo East, Jonglei State (31.8%) and Uror (27%), Jonglei; and Aweil South, Northern Bahr el Ghazal (26.1%) (UNICEF, 20/11/2014).

In the town of Leer, 1116 children were reported to be malnourished, and are no longer receiving treatment as MSF has suspended its operations in the town due to intense fighting (MSF, 09/05/2015). In Bentiu PoC site, a screening of 12,018 children revealed a proxy GAM rate of 12.5%, an improvement since the previous screening in December (proxy GAM rate of 18.8%) (OCHA, 06/03/2015).

The screening of over 600,000 children across the country in 2014 found an SAM rate of 6.7% and an MAM rate of 12.6% (UNICEF, 19/08/2014). Twice as many needed treatment for SAM in 2014 than in 2013 (UNICEF 15/07/2014).

Visceral Leishmaniasis

1,316 cases of visceral leishmaniasis, including 39 deaths (case fatality rate 3.18%), have been reported in Lankien, Ulang, Waliagak, and Chuil (Jonglei) since the beginning of 2015. Of these, 837 were new cases, 188 were relapses, and 18 did not complete treatment (WHO, 15/02/2015; 29/03/2015).

7,204 cases and 199 deaths were recorded in 2014, compared to 2,992 cases and 88 deaths for all 2013 (WHO, 08/01/2015). Most cases were reported in Jonglei (OCHA, 30/10/2014). Kala azar is a chronic and potentially fatal parasitic disease transmitted by the bite of infected sandflies.

WASH

Water coverage in the IDP sites of Ajoung Thok, Melut, Bentiu PoC, and Malakal PoC was only 10.9L/person/day, 12.2, 6.3 and 10, respectively. This is below the minimum standard of 20 recommended by UNCHR (UNHCR, 10/04/2015; IOM, 06/05/2015).

Health partners have reported an over 5% increase in diarrhoeal diseases due to the disruption of sanitation and hygiene campaigns in PoC sites (OCHA, 14/11/2014). There have been 1,085 cases of acute watery diarrhoea in Maban county’s four refugee camps (UNHCR, 08/05/2015). Malakal PoC, Bentiu PoC, and Melut have 556, 126 and 140 people per person (IOM, 06/05/2015).

Education

1.7 million children and adolescents are in need of emergency education, including 400,000 who have dropped out of school (UNICEF, 16/01/2015).
LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

10–11 May: Reports suggest up to 24,000 households (168,000 individuals) in Abu Karinka, East Darfur State, have been affected by fighting between the Southern Reizeigat and Maaliya tribes. An unknown number of residents have been cut off from water, food and fuel aid. Over 650 houses have been reported destroyed (local media, 17/05/2015; international media, 11/05/2015; OCHA, 14/05/2015).

3 May: 4,127 suspected measles cases, 2,336 confirmed cases, with 35 deaths reported so far in 2015. West Darfur is worst affected (653 confirmed cases, nine deaths) (WHO, 03/05/2015).

KEY CONCERNS
- Protracted insurgencies by armed groups are occurring across Darfur, and South Kordofan and Blue Nile states. The conflict in South Sudan has also raised tensions.
- 6.6 million people (20% of the population) need humanitarian assistance (OCHA 17/11/2014): 4.4 million in Darfur and 980,000 in South Kordofan and Blue Nile states (OCHA, 11/2014).
- 1.2 million children under five acutely malnourished, an estimated 550,000 are severely acutely malnourished (OCHA, 23/04/2015).
- Renewed fighting between armed opposition groups, militias, and the Sudanese army in Darfur since March.
- 3.1 million IDPs. Two million in Darfur prior to the latest clashes (OCHA, 03/2015), and 431,000 displaced in 2014 (OCHA, 12/2014) and 43,000 newly displaced in 2015 (OCHA, 02/2015).
- Humanitarian access remains a significant problem due to insecurity, mines and explosive remnants of war (ERW), logistical constraints, and restrictions placed by the authorities.

OVERVIEW
Several regions of Sudan are facing large-scale internal displacement due to violence, widespread food insecurity, malnutrition, lack of access to basic services, and recurrent natural disasters. Humanitarian access to conflict zones is severely restricted.

Numerous, protracted insurgencies are being waged by several armed groups across Darfur, South Kordofan, and Blue Nile. Darfur has been the scene of inter-communal clashes and conflict between the government and armed opposition for over a decade, and fighting intensified in March 2014. Violence in Blue Nile and South Kordofan grew significantly after South Sudan won independence in 2011. Tensions also continue to run high between Sudan and South Sudan.

Political Context

Profound divisions within Sudanese society have persisted since independence in 1956, and the Government’s exploitation of intercommunal differences has aggravated the situation.

Parliamentary and presidential elections were held 13-15 April, and according to unofficial estimates as of 20 April, President Omar al-Bashir has achieved a landslide victory. The voter turnout was reportedly extremely low (AP, 13/04/2015; international media, 19/04/2015). The Sudan Revolutionary Front and the National Umma Party had previously announced they would not participate in the elections.

Sudan–South Sudan

Tensions between Khartoum and Juba, persistent since South Sudan’s independence in 2011, increased when violence erupted in South Sudan in December 2013. The disruption of oil flow is a key concern for both countries. In November 2014, South Sudanese officials accused the Sudanese Government of bombing Raga county, Western Bahr el Ghazal state, and Maban county, Upper Nile state, where more than 220,000 Sudanese refugees are living (AFP, 14/11/2014).

The Sudanese Government has accused Juba of using Sudanese militia groups, and the South Sudanese army (SPLA) has accused Khartoum of supporting the Sudan People’s Liberation Movement -in-Opposition. Both the opposition and Khartoum have denied the accusations.

Sudan Revolutionary Front

The Sudan Revolutionary Front (SRF), formed in 2011, is seeking a comprehensive peace process covering the whole country. The Government is only willing to discuss the conflict in Darfur.

The SRF is made up of the Sudan People’s Liberation Movement-North (SPLM-N), mainly active in Blue Nile and South Kordofan states, as well as Darfur’s three largest opposition groups: the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM); the Sudan Liberation Movement led by Abdel Wahid Al Nur (SLM-AW); and the Sudan Liberation Movement led by Minni Arkou Minnawi (SLM-MM).
In March 2015, the Sudanese government and a number of Darfur opposition-group commanders led by Mohamedain Ismail Basher, formerly the SLM-MM operations commander, signed a peace agreement in N'Djamena, Chad.

Blue Nile and South Kordofan States

While the SPLM governs the independent South Sudan, the SPLM-North continues an insurgency in Sudan's Blue Nile and South Kordofan states, which have routinely opposed government rule. Talks between Khartoum and the SPLM-N have repeatedly failed, and negotiations last collapsed in April 2014, reportedly over the SPLM-N’s demand for a comprehensive peace process.

Security Context

Extensive military operations aimed to end armed opposition in Darfur, South Kordofan, and Blue Nile began at the end of 2013. Tribal fighting also intensified in Darfur and Kordofan regions in 2013 and 2014, leading to thousands of deaths and injuries and forcing over 300,000 people to flee their homes. Large-scale violence by pro-government militia against the IDP population in Darfur continues in 2015.

UN Peacekeeping Mission

Relations between the Government of Sudan and the UN peacekeeping mission deteriorated following the Government’s refusal to allow a UNAMID investigation of mass rape in Tabit, North Darfur at the end of 2014 (AFP, 30/11/2014). A working group of UN, AU and Sudanese officials reached a agreement on the terms of reference for UNAMID’s exit strategy in February and held a four-day meeting 16–19 April (local media, 8/03/2015; 20/04/2015).

Darfur

Security in Darfur has reportedly deteriorated significantly since late December 2013, with numerous airstrikes by the Sudanese Air Force (SAF). Attacks by pro-government militia on IDPs and villagers, their shelters, and commercial convoys, are frequent.

On 1 April, Sudanese army warplanes dropped ten bombs in an airstrike on Rowata, Central Darfur, killing 14 civilians and injuring 18 (local media, 7/04/2015).

In early January, 15 villages were burned and another 30 abandoned during fighting between government forces and armed groups in Tawila and Um Baru localities, North Darfur (OCHA, 08/01/2015; local media, 06/01/2015).

In early January, government and opposition forces were reported to be fighting for control over Fanga area, Jebel Marra region (AFP, 02/01/2015). 21 villages in Fanga were burned (local media, 29/01/2014). On 1 February, 11 bombs were reportedly dropped in Golo locality, but no one was killed (local media, 02/01/2014).

Inter-communal violence: Following weeks of tension, fighting erupted between the Southern Reizeigat and Maaliya tribes in East Darfur on 10 and 11 May near Abu Karinka, East Darfur State. Approximately 100 tribesmen were killed and around 24,000 households (168,000 individuals) are believed affected (local media, 09/05/2015; OCHA, 10/04/2015). Over 650 houses have been destroyed (local media, 17/05/2015; international media, 11/05/2015).

On 22 March, clashes between Falata and Salamat tribes in South Darfur left more than 36 dead and more than 70 wounded (local media, 26/03/2015). On 20 March, clashes between Berti and Al Zayadia tribes killed or injured an estimated 30 people near El Fasher, North Darfur. Several villages were also reported burned (AFP, 20/03/2015; local media, 20/03/2015).

In 2014, there were serious clashes between Misseriya and Salamat in Central Darfur, between Misseriya clans in West Darfur, and between Maaliya and Rizeigat in East Darfur (local media, 20/08/2014).

Kordofan and Blue Nile

Information on Blue Nile and South Kordofan states is difficult to obtain as government authorities severely restrict access to the fighting zone.

Fighting between SPLM-N and government troops intensified in March, with SPLM-N claiming they captured the garrison town of Habila on 28 March. According to the South Kordofan and Blue Nile Coordination Unit (SKBNCU), aerial bombardment and shelling increased significantly from the last week of March (SKBNCU, 03/2015). On 4 April, SPLM-N claimed that they had captured a truck in South Kordofan, which was carrying ballot boxes for nationwide elections to be held on 13 April (AFP, 05/04/2015). On 25 April, the SPLM-N claimed that they attacked the Sudan Air Force (SAF) from Kululu hills, south of Kadugli town (local media, 27/04/2015).

According to a Human Rights Watch report, the Government of Sudan dropped cluster bombs on civilian areas of South Kordofan’s Nuba Mountains between February and March 2015. The Sudanese Government has denied possession of any stockpiles of cluster bombs, which are prohibited by the 2008 Convention on Cluster Munitions (Human Rights Watch, 16/04/2015).

Humanitarian Context and Needs

6.6 million people (20% of the population) are in need of humanitarian assistance; more than half are in Darfur and South Kordofan and Blue Nile states (OCHA, 17/11/2014).

In October, 4.4 million people in Darfur, more than half of the region’s population, needed humanitarian assistance (OCHA). This includes 2.4 million IDPs, 1.9 million
non-displaced severely affected by violence, and 136,000 returnees or refugees from neighbouring countries.

In South Kordofan and Blue Nile states, 749,000 need assistance in government-controlled areas and 378,000 are estimated displaced by conflict in SPLM-N territory. Limited access to non-government areas makes verification impossible.

Access

Humanitarian access for international relief organisations is a major problem. The Humanitarian Aid Commission has been accused of impeding the distribution of food, water, and shelter materials to IDPs in South Darfur (local media, 09/05/2015). Humanitarian operations are heavily hampered by insecurity, the presence of mines and ERW, logistical constraints, and government restrictions.

A significant portion of Abu Karinka, East Darfur was destroyed in May. An unknown number of residents are in need of water, food and fuel; electricity has been cut off (OCHA, 14/05/2015). In South Kordofan, all towns in Habila, Dilling and Al Qoz localities were inaccessible after fighting in March, with the exception of Dilling town (OCHA, 29/03/2015).

Administrative and Logistical Constraints

August 2013 regulations ban foreign humanitarian groups and UN agencies from working for human rights, and the Government has banned humanitarian access to areas controlled by opposition groups.

East Jebel Marra has been virtually inaccessible since 2010. Access to IDPs in Darfur is constrained by militia checkpoints and insecurity.

There has been no humanitarian access from Sudan to opposition-held areas in South Kordofan since October 2013.

Security Incidents Involving Aid Workers

Three national aid workers have been killed in Blue Nile state and two attacks on aid organisations have been reported between January and February 2015 (ECHO, 10/02/2015; MSF, 22/01/2015). 25 aid workers were abducted in Darfur in 2014, the highest number of abduction cases recorded since 2004 (OCHA, 22/01/2015).

Displacement

IDPs

As of February 2015, there are 3.1 million IDPs in Sudan, 2.5 million of whom are in Darfur (OCHA, 30/04/2015). 2.4 million IDPs reside in 46 camps and 68 settlements in Darfur (82,530 orphans, 34,099 widows, and 52,352 sick and elderly), according to a survey conducted by the Darfur Regional Authority (DRA) from December 2013 to April 2014. OCHA reported in June that government policy to prevent the creation of new camps is an obstacle to the verification and registration of IDPs.

67,000 people have been displaced by fighting between Berti and Zayadia tribes in Mellit, North Darfur late February early March (OCAH, 03/05/2015).

457,000 people were displaced in Darfur January–December 2014, more than in any year since 2004: 141,000 have reportedly returned (OCHA 31/12/2014; 20/07/2014).

Over 121,000 people have been displaced in North and Central Darfur, including Jebel Marra, since early January. 41,304 have been verified in North Darfur. OCHA, 05/02/2015; 15/02/2015; 01/03/2015; 31/03/2015).

Jebel Marra: More than 3,000 displaced arrived at areas controlled by the Sudan Liberation Movement, led by Abdel Wahid El Nur (SLM-AW) in Jebel Marra, which is in both North and Central Darfur states. According to SLM-AW, the displaced had fled attacks by government forces on Golo and the neighbouring villages in January (local media, 15/03/2015).

North Darfur: 148,000 total IDPs as of March 2015. 107,000 IDPs; 124,000 returnees in 2014 (OCHA 31/12/2014). OCHA has verified another 41,304 newly displaced: 4,458 in Rwanda camp; 10,888 in Shagara A, B, C, Behir, and Um Hajaleed towns; 4,587 in Tawila town; 1,645 in Kino and Midasis villages; 4,000 in Guldo town; 6,189 in Argo camp; 418 in Dali camp; 7,450 in Um Baru UNAMID site; 1,031 in Majdob town; and 624 in Nifasha camp (OCHA, 22/02/2015).

South Darfur: According to HAC, 2,500 people from the Salamat tribe fled Al Nadeef village for Katila locality, in South Darfur’s Buram locality following fighting between the Salamat and Falata on 21 March (OCHA, 29/03/2015). 105,000 IDPs (OCHA, 31/12/2014). 736 villages were destroyed December 2013–April 2014 (DRA cited by local media 16/07/2014).

Central Darfur: 74,000 verified IDPs as of the beginning of January 2015; 68,000 IDPs; 5,000 returnees in 2014 (OCHA 31/12/2014). In the week ending 10 May, 344 people came to Zalingei camp, Central Darfur, after their homes were burned down by militia groups (OCHA, 10/05/2015). In March and April 2015, an estimated 16,300 IDPs arrived in Guldo town from central Jebel Marra locality, fleeing fighting between government and militia, as well as lack of humanitarian assistance. Of these, 6,200 people are from Golo, Jebel Marra, according to aid agencies (OCHA, 08/04/2015).

East Darfur: 35,000 IDPs as of end November 2014 (OCHA, 31/12/2014).
West Darfur: 1,300 IDPs were reported by OCHA in December 2014, in stark contrast with an earlier local government figure of 373,000 (OCHA, 07/09/2014; DRA cited by local media 16/07/2014).

Blue Nile and South Kordofan: In South Kordofan and Blue Nile states, 378,000 people are estimated displaced in SPLM-N territory (OCHA, 03/02/2015). With no presence in the SPLM-N territory, the UN is unable to verify these figures (OCHA, 19/05/2014). Between 9 and 18 March, an estimated 23,600 people fled fighting between SPLM-N and government troops and arrived in Al Abassiya, Abu Jubaiha and Rah Abu Jubaiha and Rashad towns as well as surrounding villages in South Kordofan state, according to the Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC). Almost 60% were women and children under five. An estimated 19,000 were in Al Abassiya and Abu Jubaiha localities (OCHA, 23/03/2015).

According to HAC, nearly all people who fled their homes in Habila due to fighting at the end of March returned in early April (OCHA, 08/04/2015).

West Kordofan: More than 52,000 people were reported displaced in September (OCHA, 21/09/2014).

Abyei: According to an inter-agency mission, nearly 800 IDPs were confirmed to have fled Marialahak village to Rummamier village, following attacks by armed Misseriya (OCHA, 12/04/2015).

Refugees in Sudan

There are 314,101 refugees in Sudan (OCHA, 10/05/2015). As of 13 May 2015, more than 146,493 are South Sudanese nationals who have arrived in Sudan since 15 December 2013 (UNHCR, 13/05/2015). Between 8 and 19 March, more than 5,000 refugees arrived from Upper Nile state, South Sudan, fleeing fighting between government and opposition forces (UNHCR, 19/03/2015; OCHA, 03/05/2015).

Approximately 80,324 South Sudanese refugees live in White Nile, 33,145 in Khartoum, 11,566 in South Kordofan, 17,633 in West Kordofan, 3,661 in Blue Nile and 164 East Darfur (UNHCR, 13/05/2015). 66% (85,240) are children (UNICEF, 02/2015). 91% of households are female-headed (UNHCR, 29/01/2015).

All sites in White Nile state are beyond capacity. Access for aid workers is a concern (ECHO, 23/09/2014).

It is estimated that over 350,000 people of South Sudanese origin are in Sudan (OCHA, 30/04/2014). 6,800 displaced South Sudanese are living in the disputed area of Abyei (OCHA, 17/12/2014).

As of January 2015, OCHA reported 367,000 Sudanese refugees in Chad, 233,000 in South Sudan, 35,000 in Ethiopia, and 1,880 in Central African Republic (UNHCR, 23/02/2015; OCHA, 03/02/2015).

10,000 refugees from South Kordofan are reported to have fled to South Sudan (Yida, in Unity state) since 23 December 2014. At 500 people a week, the rate of arrival is double that of the same time period in 2013 (UNCHR, 30/01/2015).

Food Security

Despite improved food security conditions, acute food insecurity persists among 3.5 million IDPs and host communities in conflict-affected areas. An estimated 20–30% of IDPs in Darfur are expected to remain Stressed (IPC Phase 2) through June 2015. The current most food insecure areas are Darfur (70%) and South Kordofan (15%) (OCHA, 03/05/2015).

The number of food insecure will increase to 4 million in June and peak at 4.2 million in August/September (FEWSNET, 01/02/2014; OCHA, 03/05/2015). An estimated 25–30% of IDPs in SPLM-N-controlled areas of South Kordofan will remain in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) (FEWSNET, 03/2014). Hundreds of families in Graida, South Darfur, are facing food shortages after clashes between Falata and Massalit tribes destroyed more than 165 homes (local media, 22/02/2015).

Food availability has otherwise improved. Harvests in North and West Darfur are above-average due to good rains and increased cultivation in some areas. The preliminary findings of the joint Crop and Food Supply Assessment Mission (CFSAM) estimates that 2014/15 national production will be 50% above the five-year average (FEWSNET, 12/2014).

Health and Nutrition

The UN estimated in mid-December 2013 that 165,000 children in SPLM-N-controlled parts of South Kordofan and Blue Nile do not have access to basic health services. There are indications that the health situation in Darfur is deteriorating; many have no access to healthcare.

Measles

A measles outbreak began in late 2014. 167 confirmed measles cases were reported in the week ending 3 May, compared with 101 cases during the previous week. At 3 May, 4,127 suspected measles cases, 2,336 confirmed cases, and 35 deaths have been reported in 2015. West Darfur is worst affected (653 confirmed cases, nine deaths). Kassala has had 397 confirmed cases and five deaths, while in Red Sea state, there have been 352 cases and five deaths (WHO, 03/05/2015).
1.2 million children under five were estimated to be acutely malnourished as of April 2015. This revision of the planning figures resulted in a drop from 2 million estimated at the end of September 2014 (OCHA, 23/04/2015). An estimated 550,000 were severely malnourished in 2014 (UN, 05/05/2015).

WASH

A fall in the water level in the White Nile River is affecting water supply to Jouri and El Redis refugee camps in White Nile state, where water intake dropped to 9L per person per day in both camps (UNHCR, 08/05/2015).

There are currently only two functioning handpumps in Guldo town, Central Darfur where 16,300 new IDPs have arrived (OCHA, 12/04/2015).

20 water pumps have stopped working in El Salam camp, South Darfur in the past five months, affecting 80,000 people (Radio Dabanga, 04/05/2015).

Water supply problems were reported in Tawila, North Darfur, Kereinik locality, West Darfur, and El Jeer district, South Darfur and Abu Kershola, South Kordofan, in March (OCHA, 01/03/2015). Drinking water crises have also been reported in (local media, 22/02/2015; 14/05/2015).

Education

3 million children aged 5–13 are out of school in Sudan. 1.9 million of these are primary school aged children (UNICEF, 14/04/2015).

Protection

Mines and ERW

250 locations covering an estimated 32km² are contaminated by mines and ERW, with the greatest concentrations in Kassala, Gedaref, Red Sea, Blue Nile, South Kordofan, and Darfur (UNMAS). South Kordofan is the most heavily mined area of Sudan, according to the Landmine and Cluster Munition Monitor.

Sexual and Gender-based Violence

Rape of IDPs by pro-government militia was frequently reported by the local media in North, South, and Central Darfur and Jebel Marra in 2014. Reports in early November suggested that more than 200 women and girls had been raped by Sudanese soldiers in Tabit area in North Darfur. Sudanese troops denied UNAMID access to assess the situation (Reuters, 17/11/2014).

Legal Status

As of March 2014, the Sudanese Government refuses to recognise South Sudanese nationals as refugees and instead considers them to be Sudanese citizens (UNHCR, 03/04/2014). All foreigners in Sudan had to register with the immigration administration by 1 April. UNHCR has declared this constitutes an obstacle to humanitarian assistance.

Updated: 18/05/2014

CAMEROON FOOD INSECURITY, EPIDEMIC, DISPLACEMENT

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

No significant developments this week, 13/05/2015. Last update 24/04/2015.

KEY CONCERNS

- 2.1 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance (OCHA, 17/12/2014).
- 311,000 refugees have arrived from CAR and Nigeria (OCHA, 31/03/2015).
- An estimated 1.08 million people are food insecure in 2015 (OCHA, 10/03/2015).

Overview

Conflict in both Nigeria and CAR continues to displace vulnerable refugees to Cameroon, and the spillover from the Boko Haram conflict in Nigeria in particular threatens security in Cameroon. Some 2.1 million people, 10% of the population, are in need of humanitarian assistance, primarily in the Far North, North, Adamawa, and East regions.

Security Context

Boko Haram Attacks

The armed Islamist group Boko Haram (BH), based in Nigeria, has intensified attacks in Cameroon since end December (ECHO, 06/01/2015). Throughout December, BH militants crossed into the Far North region from Lake Chad, attacking towns and villages, military vehicles, kidnapping individuals, and attempting to control army bases (AFP, 06/04/2015; Reuters, 18/12/2014; VOA, 13/12/2014; BBC, 29/12/2014; AFP, 29/01/2015). Cross-border raids continued into January in Kolofata. While attacks are still concentrated in the Far North region, they have spread southward. An increase in attacks to obtain supplies like food and livestock was recorded in the north in March–April (AFP, 06/04/2015). The United States is supplying equipment and logistics training to the Cameroonian military to aid its efforts to counter BH campaign (VOA, 12/12/2014, Reuters, 17/02/2015). Both Cameroon and Chad pledged to support Cameroon in fighting BH, launching air and ground offensives (Daily Mail, 14/01/2015; New York Times, 05/02/2015).
Recent Incidents

Armed militants from CAR killed three people and kidnapped seven in Mbeng village on 24 April. Two more people were kidnapped on 25 April (Reuters, 25/04/2015). On 16 April, Boko Haram attacked the villages of Bia and Blaberi in Kolofata district, Far North region, killing 19 people and later that night attacked Amchide, an army position (Reuters, 17/04/2015; AFP, 17/04/2015).

On 3 April, a nurse from a health centre in the Far North was kidnapped by ten armed men (OCHA, 10/04/2015).

Humanitarian Context and Needs

2.1 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance (OCHA, 17/12/2014).

Access

The limited number of humanitarian actors involved in the response in the Far North has made comprehensive humanitarian intervention almost impossible.

Logistical Constraints

The delivery of aid is complicated by the low presence of humanitarian actors in Cameroon (OCHA, 17/12/2014).

Bad road conditions delay the provision of assistance.

Security Constraints

The deterioration of the security situation has made access to the Far North extremely difficult. Although the Cameroonian army retook the border towns, the area remains insecure with the presence of armed groups (OCHA, 10/04/2015). UN agencies have only been undertaking priority activities such as assisting refugees and some host communities, according to WFP (IRIN, 15/08/2014). Organisations like UNHCR do not have access to certain localities where refugees are present, due to heightened insecurity (UNHCR, 25/01/2015).

Disasters – Heavy rains

The fishing and tourism industry is threatened by heavy rains and surging tides in southern Cameroon. In 2014, tourism dropped by 60% (Reuters, 30/03/2015).

Displacement

At April 2015, there were 417,000 displaced people in Cameroon, including 311,000 refugees from CAR and Nigeria and an estimated 106,000 IDPs in northern regions due to the spillover of the Nigerian conflict (OCHA, 10/04/2015; UNICEF, 23/04/2015; UNHCR, 29/03/2015). At 10 February, there were 60,000 IDPs (OCHA, 10/02/2015). As attacks increase, people are moving toward central Cameroon (OCHA, 06/01/2015).

In the Far North, there are 39,850 IDPs in Logone-et-Chari department, 20,200 IDPs in Mayo Sava department, and 26,989 IDPs in Mayo-Tsanaga department (UNHCR, 10/04/2015).

Refugees from the Central African Republic

As of 4 April, 247,250 CAR refugees are in Cameroon: 140,820 have arrived since December 2013 (OCHA, 24/03/2015; UNHCR, 21/04/2015; 03/04/2015). But the border is open and extensive, and there are refugees who cross without being registered. In January 2015, it was reported that the influx of CAR refugees has dropped from 10,000 per week to 8,000. The reduced flow of refugees indicates an improved situation in CAR, but many refugees are reluctant to go home because they are concerned about food security and livelihoods (VoA, 16/03/2015). 1,340 refugees were registered in Garoua Boulai and Borgop site from 30 March-12 April (UNHCR, 17/04/2015).

In most locations, the number of refugees and third-country nationals exceeds the local population. Host communities and refugees are competing over already inadequate resources and living conditions have become very difficult for host communities (FAO, 11/12/2014).

Refugees from Nigeria

74,000 Nigerians are estimated to have fled to northern Cameroon since May 2013 (UNHCR, 20/04/2015; OCHA, 09/04/2015). Cameroonian authorities say there are 25,000 refugees living along the Nigerian borders (OCHA, 31/03/2015). The number of pre-registered refugees doubled from 20,000 to 40,000 in just 21 days in February (UNHCR, 25/01/2015; VoA, 23/02/2015).

34,360 refugees have been registered in Minawao camp, in the Far North region (UNHCR, 03/05/2015). The camp’s maximum capacity is 15,000, and the population was only 6,000 in August 2014. The needs among refugees are largely WASH, shelter, health and education (UNHCR, 15/04/2015). Local residents from Marwa village in northern Cameroon reported that around 60,000 victims of BH attacks from Borno and Adamawa, Nigeria, are taking refuge in the area (local media, 06/04/2015).

25,000 refugees who arrived between late February and early March refuse to be relocated to Minawao camp and have signed documents stating their intention to return to their localities (OCHA, 10/04/2015).

People living outside the camp do not receive humanitarian assistance and lack of identification is a concern. Moreover, relocation from Kousseri transit site is slowed because individuals want to go back to their villages (UNHCR, 25/03/2015).

Returnees and Third-Country Nationals

At least 17,500 third-country nationals are currently living in Garoua Boulai and Kentzou transit sites, or in host communities (UNHCR, 07/2014 and IOM, 25/07/2014; 19/02/2015).

Food Security
As of March, 1.08 million people are food insecure, mostly in the Far North, North, Adamawa and East regions, with 244,000 in severe food insecurity (OCHA, 10/03/2015; 17/12/2014). 54% of households in the Far North and North regions face shortages. An estimated 34.4% of refugee households from CAR are food insecure (FAO, 11/12/2014).

70% of farmers in the Far North region have deserted their farms and missed out on planting (AFP, 28/01/2015). Dryness in the Sahel belt and the strain of hosting so many refugees are also affecting food security (ECHO, 06/11/2015).

20.4 million people in the Sahel (Burkina Faso, north Cameroon, Chad, the Gambia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, north Nigeria, and Senegal) are expected to suffer from food insecurity in 2015 (OCHA, 10/02/2015). Food insecurity affected 24.7 million people in 2014, compared to 11.3 million in 2013 (OCHA, 03/02/2014).

Health and Nutrition

As of September 2014, 6.8 million people are in need of health services (IOM, 09/2014). Cameroon’s Far North, North, Adamawa, and East regions suffer chronic shortages of health workers. The concentration of health staff in wealthier areas leaves around 40% of Cameroonians without access to healthcare. 46% of health centres do not have access to electricity and 70% do not have piped water (Inter Press Service, 19/08/2014).

Acute respiratory infections and malaria are the leading causes of death in refugee camps (UNHCR, 01/03/2015). CAR refugees mostly suffer from malnutrition, malaria, and respiratory infections, according to an ECHO needs assessment. A number of measles cases have been reported among child refugees.

Nutrition

There were 40% more cases of severe malnutrition in January 2015 compared to the start of 2014 (OCHA, 30/01/2015). There are 39,000 cases of severe acute malnutrition (SAM) among children under five the Far North region (UNICEF, 23/04/2015). There were 132,000 cases of moderate acute malnutrition (OCHA, 30/01/2015; UNICEF, 08/2014). The prevalence for severe acute malnutrition (SAM) in the Far North is 2.0%, while the global acute malnutrition (GAM) prevalence is 9% (UNHCR, 29/03/2015).

WASH

Regions affected by the CAR refugee crisis have particularly poor access to drinking water (East: 54% and Adamawa: 70%) and basic sanitation (East: 22% and Adamawa: 64%) (UNICEF, 05/08/2014). The quantity of water provided per day to refugees in Minawao and Gawar refugee camps has increased from 10 to 12L per person per day (OCHA, 10/04/2015). The water supply in Gado and Mble camps, at 15 litres and 17 litres, respectively, is below standard (UNHCR, 26/03/2015). In East and Adamawa regions, only two out of seven refugee sites have the standard daily 20L of water per person (UNHCR, 17/04/2015).

Education

120 schools had to close in the Far North region for the 2014-2015 academic year (UNHCR, 29/03/2015). Students are moving toward the country’s interior and the government is assisting in moving populations to more secure areas after BH destroyed or occupied schools (VoA, 25/11/2014). 33,163 children from the Far North Region were either left out of school or were forced to seek education in other communities for the 2014-2015 academic year (UNICEF, 28/02/2015; UNHCR, 29/03/2015). In 2014, more than 200 trained teachers did not take up their posts in the Far North region (IRIN, 01/12/2014). The majority of people residing in Minawao camp have no formal education or profession (UNHCR, 21/03/2015).

In Minawao camp, there are only three primary schools with 21 classrooms to accommodate more than 6,600 primary school-aged children (IRIN, 12/05/2015).

School attendance in camps remains low, 44% for primary and 66.9% for secondary school, despite education advocacy with parents (UNHCR, 01/03/2015).

Protection

Witnesses report that hundreds of young people are joining Boko Haram in the Far North region due to lack of access to education and employment. 6,000 troops have been sent to protect the region and prevent further recruitment of young men (IRIN, 05/03/2015).

The Cameroonian Government is refuting allegations by a regional human rights organisation that it is treating suspected BH fighters inhumanely, which emerged following the death of 25 prisoners in December (Reuters, 13/03/2015).

Reviewed: 13/05/2015

CHAD FOOD INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

No significant developments this week, 06/05/2015. Last update 07/04/2015.

KEY CONCERNS

- 5.5 million affected by humanitarian crisis, including 2.2 million children (UNICEF, 10/11/2014).

- At least 515,000 refugees in Chad, including 94,000 from CAR (OCHA, 10/02/2015; UNHCR, 03/04/2015).

- 2.4 million Chadians are food insecure (OCHA, 10/02/2015). 681,000 were considered severely food insecure during the lean season (OCHA, 28/01/2015).

Security Context
Regional Military Involvement

In January, the Chadian Government pledged to support the fight against Boko Haram (Daily Mail, 14/01/2015). Between 31 January and 2 February, Chadian forces aided Nigerian security forces to reclaim several towns in Borno state (AP, 03/02/2015; VoA, 01/02/2015). On 8 February, Nigeria, Niger, Cameroon, Chad and Benin agreed to send a joint force of 8,700 troops to fight Boko Haram (10/02/2015). On 8 March, Chad and Niger launched a joint army operation against Boko Haram militants in Nigeria (Reuters, 08/03/2015). Ten Chadian soldiers died and 30 Chadian and Nigerian soldiers were wounded taking control of two towns in northern Nigeria, Malam Fatouri and Damasak (Reuters, 09/03/2015). On 12 March, Chadian troops fighting BH withdrew to Cameroon and redeployed further south (Reuters, 12/03/2015). On 31 March, Chad and Nigerian soldiers drove BH militants from a border town, Malam Fatori, which has been a stronghold of the group (31/03/2015).

International Presence in Chad

In August, France deployed a 3,000-strong counterterrorism operation across the Sahel region based in Chad. Operation Barkhane is active in Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, and Niger (local media, 01/08/2014).

Boko Haram Attacks

Boko Haram launched its first attack in Chad in February, killing at least ten and burning Ngouboua, by Lake Chad, where some 7,000 Nigerians had taken refuge (Aljazeera, 14/02/2015). From 28 February to 1 March, Boko Haram attacked Kaiga village, Lake Chad region, targeting Chadian soldiers (ECHO, 03/03/2015). On 15 March, BH attacked Djagargoroum village, in the Lake Chad region, killing one person and burning two houses (Reuters, 12/03/2015). On 2 April, an attack on Maidogo, an island on Lake Chad, killed seven (AFP, 06/04/2015). On 3 and 7 April, Boko Haram attacked Ngouboua and the Lake Region, respectively (UNHCR, 07/04/2015).

Security measures have been heightened in Tchoukoutalia following BH attacks on 7, 9, and 13 April (UNHCR, 14/04/2015). Along the border with Nigeria, Chadian security forces are screening road users and their property. Navigation on the Chari River and its tributary the Logone, which flow along the border of Chad and Cameroon, has been halted (AFP, 30/04/2015).

Humanitarian Context and Needs

5.5 million people are affected by humanitarian crisis, including 2.2 million children; 3.2 million need humanitarian assistance (UNICEF, 10/11/2014; OCHA, 28/01/2015).

Access

Chad’s President Idriss Déby announced in May 2014 that the southern border with CAR would be closed to all except Chadian citizens until the CAR crisis is resolved. Concerns over reports of refusal of refugee entry have been raised. The Government deployed additional security forces to the border, after expressing concern that armed fighters might be infiltrating refugee populations in the area.

Two main roads in Chad, which run through Cameroon and Nigeria and are vital to Chad’s economy, remain insecure and mostly blocked due to violence (AFP, 02/03/2015).

Displacements

IDPs

Nearly 90,000 IDPs are living in protracted displacement in the east, facing difficulties accessing shelter, land, and income-generating activities (OCHA, 19/11/2013). The arrival of CAR refugees since December 2013 is further increasing competition for scarce resources (IDMC, 24/10/2014).

Some1,300 IDPs are in the south of Ndjamena (UNHCR, 21/03/2015). There are an estimated 14,500 IDPs in the Lake Region (UNICEF, 08/04/2015).

Refugees

As of 14 April, Chad hosted 515,000 refugees from Sudan, CAR, Nigeria, and DRC (OCHA, 14/04/2015). Of those, 367,200 are Sudanese (OCHA, 31/01/2015), 94,000 are from CAR (UNHCR, 03/04/2015), 18,100 are Nigerians (UNHCR, 28/02/2015; IOM, 23/02/2015), and 36,500 from DRC.

Most refugees are in Wadi Fira (157,500), Ouaddai (114,350), Sila (84,650), and Logone Oriental (47,500), while 22,750 are in Dosseye camp and 26,420 in Belom camp. Moyen Chari; 4,900 in Dar es Salam camp, and around 18,100 in Lake region (UNHCR, 14/04/2015; 25/03/2015; 21/03/2015; 28/01/2015; 02/11/2014; OCHA, 20/03/2015; 08/02/2015; WFP, 06/03/2015; UNICEF, 08/04/2015).

CAR Refugees

There are 94,020 refugees from CAR in Chad, including 17,080 who have arrived since December 2013 (UNHCR, 21/04/2015; 01/05/2015). Of these, 83,030 live in sites in Amboko, Belom, Dosseye, Doholo, Gondje and Moyo (UNHCR, 01/05/2015). 6,690 live in host communities. (UNHCR, 03/04/2015). In Dembo refugee site, there are 2,298 with needs for shelter and WASH (UNHCR, 03/04/2015).

Nigerian Refugees

The Chadian Prime Minister has appealed for international aid for Nigerian refugees (Reuters, 09/01/2015). At 7 April, 18,100 Nigerian refugees had entered Chad since 3 January (OCHA, 18/03/2015; UNHCR, 07/04/2015). Some 6,900 remain stranded on small islands on Lake Chad, where they are living with host communities (OCHA, 21/02/2015). Relocating the refugees on Lake Chad islands to the Dar Es Salam site remains a priority (UNICEF, 08/04/2015). Resources are limited for both refugees and host communities, especially food, shelter, and essential household items (OCHA, 12/01/2015). At end March, at least 68,000 people in host communities in five prefectures are affected by the influx of refugees (OCHA, 19/01/2015; UNICEF, 08/04/2015). At camps in Baga Sola there were 3,810 refugees, 6,970 in Ngouboua, and 150 in N’Djamena (UNHCR).
There are approximately 257,000 returnees in Chad, including 130,000 from CAR (OCHA, 10/02/2015; UNHCR, 21/03/2015). There are 8,500 Chadian returnees from Nigeria in Lake region, including 2,010 who have been registered (IOM, 21/04/2015; OCHA, 21/02/2015). There were 1,712 returnees and 3,398 IDPs in Bagasola and 1,494 IDPs in Bol based on recent profiling (UNHCR, 14/04/2015).

On 2-3 May, an international organisation helped 179 stranded migrants in Cameroon relocate home. They are currently in Djako transit site (IOM, 05/05/2015).

Returnees from CAR

There are 130,000 returnees from CAR (UNHCR, 21/03/2015). As of 26 March 1,724 are in Djako site; 11,446 in Danamadja Site; 6,449 in Kobiteye; 8,418 in Logone Orientale villages; 8,513 in Moundou villages; 16,879 in Sido; and 16,074 in Maingama (OCHA, 28/03/2015). Some 30,000 returnees have returned to their homes in Chad (IOM, 05/05/2015).

There are some 64,220 Chadian returnees living in seven sites in N’Djamena and the south of the country (IOM, 27/04/2015).

90% of CAR evacuees are in camps (OCHA, 15/10/2014). The Government has increased the maximum stay in transit centres from ten days to one year to allow the restoration of family links and better prepare relocation (OCHA, 30/09/2014).

The situation in southern transit sites is critical. The intention is to relocate people from Sido and Doyaba to Maingama, a temporary camp in Moyen Chari; however, Maingama does not have sufficient shelter and WASH capacity to host the entire population of Doyaba and Sido sites (IOM, 16/02/2015).

There are 11,770 people in Danamadja, 6,480 in Kobiteye, 16,360 in Maingama and 116,870 in Sido (UNHCR, 03/04/2015). Work is underway to increase the hosting capacity at Maingama to 30,000 (OCHA, 30/09/2014).

Host communities

Over 25,000 people who entered Chad since the CAR crisis are living in small villages and remote communities throughout the south, including 22 villages in Moundou and Logone Oriental hosting around 15,000 returnees (OCHA, 30/09/2014). Pressure on resources is high and conditions are poor, with urgent need for shelter, food, health, WASH, and livelihood support.

Food Security

2.4 million people in Chad are food insecure (OCHA, 10/02/2015). 681,000 are considered severely food insecure during the lean season, compared to 428,000 severely food insecure at end December 2014 (OCHA, 28/01/2015; WFP, 31/12/2015).

Those in moderate and crisis food insecurity are mainly in central Chad (WFP, 31/12/2015). Between April and June, the lean season will be early in Bahr el Gazel, Kanem, and the Lake Region. Livestock prices are below normal, milk availability will fall and the food security situation, currently in Phase 2 (Stressed) will progress to IPC Phase 3 (Crisis). There is no aid programme planned for this period (FEWSNET, 04/2015). People in the Lake Chad region may face higher food insecurity if they do not receive humanitarian assistance (FEWSNET, 03/2015; 20/04/2015).

Due to the closure of the border and the population influx, the price of food in some communities has increased by 50% (OCHA, 21/02/2015).

Cereal harvest is improving food reserves for poor households and thus food security. Beginning in April, food stocks will run out one month prior to other years in Kanem, Bahr El Ghazal and Guera regions, leading to IPC Phase 3 food insecurity (Crisis) from April until June (FEWSNET, 31/03/2015). Conflicts in neighbouring countries limit food exports (Government, 20/11/2014).

Refugees and returnees are putting pressure on household demand, consumption, and spending in Logone Oriental, Moyen Chari, Mandoul, and Salamat (WFP, 07/2014).

Regional Outlook: Sahel

20.4 million people in the Sahel are expected to suffer from food insecurity in 2015 (10/01/2015). In 2014, food insecurity rose dramatically, affecting 24.7 million people, compared to 13 million people had inadequate food (OCHA, 03/02/2015).

Health and Nutrition

2.5 million people are in need of healthcare (OCHA, 31/08/2014). Only 34% of children under one have been vaccinated in returnee sites in eastern Chad (UNICEF, 10/11/2014).

Due to the influx of refugees, there is an urgent need to strengthen healthcare activities in host communities and to recruit more qualified medical personnel (UNHCR, 06/03/2015).

21 children in Darfuri refugee camps in eastern Chad died of an unidentified disease during the last week of March 2015 (local media, 30/03/2015).

The HIV/AIDS prevalence in the Lake Region is 10.10% compared to the national prevalence of 2.7% (UNHCR, 14/04/2015).

Nutrition

97,000 children suffer from SAM while 257,000 suffer from MAM, a slight fall from the numbers reported in October 2014 (OCHA, 10/02/2015). In September, Kanem, Bahr El Ghazal, Gera, and Wadi Fira all reported GAM above the emergency threshold of 15% (OCHA, 19/09/2014).

WASH

1.3 million people are in need of WASH assistance: 55% of the population has access to...
safe water, compared to 46% in 2012 (UNHCR, 03/03/2015; OCHA, 31/12/2014). Additionally only 4% of households and 50% of health centres have access to standard sanitation facilities (OCHA, 31/12/2014).

Education

An assessment on child refugees from Nigeria showed that 72% of the 296 school-aged children identified had never been to school (OCHA, 21/02/2015; 20/03/2015).

The number of students in Dar Es Salam camp has decreased from 848 to 269, due to insufficient food rations, heat, and distance (UNHCR, 14/04/2015). Attendance in Baga Sola schools decreased by 70% due to food insecurity, distance, and lack of canteens in school (UNHCR, 17/04/2015).

Protection

Child Protection

Family reunification is a major protection challenge (OCHA, 25/10/2014).

A survey found that two out of three girls are married before the age of 18 in Chad (UN, 24/03/2015).

Legal Status

Second and third-generation Chadians from CAR have been recognised as de facto nationals by the Government, and UNHCR is working with authorities to formalise recognition and avoid statelessness. The Government will provide birth certificates to every child born in a transit site (UNHCR, 07/2014).

Updated: 06/05/2015

DJIBOUTI DROUGHT, FOOD INSECURITY

<table>
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<tr>
<th>LATEST DEVELOPMENTS</th>
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<td><strong>12 May: 9,730 new arrivals from Yemen between end April and 12 May as the conflict escalates</strong> (IOM).</td>
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<th>KEY CONCERNS</th>
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<td>- An estimated 300,000 people need humanitarian assistance, including more than 24,000 refugees (ECHO, 01/08/2014; OCHA, 30/11/2014).</td>
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Security Context

Djibouti plays a significant role in international efforts to combat piracy in the region and restore peace in Somalia. This has led to sporadic reprisal attacks in the past (UNHCR).

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Stress on rural livelihoods has triggered movement from rural to peri-urban areas of the capital, putting pressure on the delivery of basic services (UN, 12/06/2014).

Access

A lack of access due to insecurity, on top of reductions in assistance, has placed Obock in a particularly precarious situation (FEWSNET, 25/08/2014).

Displacement

Migrants

IOM estimates that over 100,000 migrants, the majority from Ethiopia and Somalia, transit the country every year. Children account for 32% of the migrant population (UNICEF, 15/01/2015).

Migrants arrive in dire conditions and vulnerable to a number of protection issues. A large number need medical assistance, which strains health facilities in Dikhil, Tadjourah, and Obock (IOM, 21/11/2014). Migrants/refugees continue to report lack of access to food and water during their transit through Obock (UNHCR, 12/2014).

A UNICEF report indicated that thousands of families displaced by drought live in illegal settlements, without basic water or sanitation facilities (UNICEF, 15/01/2015).

Refugees in Djibouti

Yemeni refugees

9,730 new arrivals from Yemen have been reported between end April and 12 May as the conflict escalates, comprising 51% transiting third-country nationals, 33% Yemenis and 16% Djiboutians (IOM, 12/05/2015; 07/05/2015). The refugees are housed at two transit centres in Al-Rahma before transfer to Markazi, where construction of a new camp is underway (UNICEF, 17/04/2015).

UNHCR is planning to receive up to 30,000 refugees in the next six months (UNHCR, 14/04/2014). Humanitarian organisations fear that the influx of people from Yemen may worsen an already difficult humanitarian situation in Obock (ECHO, 20/04/2015).

Non-Yemeni refugees

Prior to the recent influx of refugees from Yemen, Djibouti was hosting more than 23,700 refugees, the majority of Somali origin (ECHO, 17/04/2015). 70% are women and children who depend entirely on humanitarian assistance and protection services (UNICEF, 15/01/2015). There are also 4,220 asylum seekers, 3,275 of whom are from Ethiopia. The refugees are living in two camps: Holl Holl and Ali Addeh, where there is a reported lack of shelter, sanitation facilities and essential non-food items (ECHO, 15/04/2015).

Food Security

Stress on rural livelihoods has triggered movement from rural to peri-urban areas of the capital, putting pressure on the delivery of basic services (UN, 12/06/2014).
14.5% of households in the country are food insecure and 32% are vulnerable to food insecurity. As of January, 14,200 people were in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food insecurity, while 56,000 were Stressed (IPC Phase 2) (WFP, 13/01/2015).

Below-average rainfall throughout 2014 has limited pasture regeneration and the food security situation is expected to deteriorate in the Southeast Pastoral Border Zone and in the rural Obock region. Most pastoral households are expected to remain at Minimal (IPC Phase 1) or Stressed (IPC Phase 2) conditions between April and September (28/04/2015). A combination of high food prices, water scarcity, and reduced pasture is further deteriorating food insecurity (ECHO, 17/04/2015).

Health and Nutrition

In 2014, OCHA reported that 300,000 people are in need of health services. Rates of communicable diseases are high, including diarrhoeal disease. A lack of medicine is reported at health facilities (WHO, 27/04/2015).

Nutrition

According to OCHA, 277,000 people are in need of nutritional aid, compared to 195,400 in 2013.

In Obock region, nearly half of the population is considered moderately food insecure and one in ten severely food insecure, according to a 2014 food security survey. The global acute malnutrition is estimated at 29.9 per cent and severe acute malnutrition at 12.1 per cent (UNICEF, 17/04/2015).

WASH

In Obock region, only 40% of the population have access to safe water and only 25% have access to adequate sanitation facilities (UNICEF, 17/04/2015).

Education

As of January 2015, 41.6% of girls and 33.3% of boys aged 6–10 are out of school (UNICEF, 15/01/2015).

Protection

In 2014, 241 migrants were reported dead or missing, compared to 15 in 2013 (IOM, UNHCR, 21/11/2014). Migrants/refugees are exposed to theft and detention during transit in Djibouti (Regional Mixed Migration Secretariat, 31/05/2014).

Updated: 12/05/2015

ETHIOPIA FLOODS, FOOD INSECURITY
Security Context

Participation in Regional Military Operations

Ethiopia has historically been a key player in peacekeeping and counter-terrorism operations in East Africa. Peace talks on the South Sudan conflict, under the mediation of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, are taking place in Addis Ababa.

In January 2014, the Government pledged that Ethiopian troops, currently part of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) would remain in Somalia until durable peace and security is achieved. The Somali militant group Al Shabaab has repeatedly threatened Ethiopia since Ethiopian troops arrived in Somalia.

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Access

South Sudanese refugees are arriving only through Pagak and Akobo, as reception centres in Matar and Pamdong have been closed (IOM, 07/01/2015).

Disasters

Floods

Around 600 people have been displaced by floods in the highlands of Amhara region after the Kebena River overflowed. 300 are in temporary shelters. A flood assessment reported that the population is at high risk of water-related disease outbreaks (OCHA, 13/04/2015).

Displacement

IDPs

As of 11 February, Ethiopia had 495,680 IDPs (IOM through OCHA, 11/02/2015), who mostly live in Somali region (USAID, 2014). About 60% are in protracted displacement (OCHA, 2014).

Refugees in Ethiopia

As of 30 April, Ethiopia hosts some 689,100 refugees; mainly Somalis, South Sudanese, Eritreans, and Sudanese (UNHCR, 30/04/2015). South Sudanese account for the biggest refugee population (UNHCR, 30/04/2015). Environmental degradation in camps, the fragile ecosystem, and scarce resources have led to tensions between host communities and refugees in some locations (UNHCR, 20/01/2015).

South Sudanese Refugees: As of 12 May, 204,106 South Sudanese refugees have entered Gambella region since December 2013, including 12,721 who arrived after 15 December 2014. 2,521 are awaiting transfer to camps (UNHCR, 12/05/2015). 67% are children and about 23% are women (UNHCR, 05/05/2015). They are arriving in a critical nutritional condition (UNHCR, 28/02/2014). The majority come from Upper Nile state and are predominantly from Gajaak, Gajiok, and Luo-Nuer tribes (UNHCR, 03/07/2014). 57,800 South Sudanese refugees were in Ethiopia before December 2013 (UNHCR, 12/02/2015).

The current arrival rate averages 406 per day (UNHCR, 12/05/2015). However, Pagak entry point saw a spike in new arrivals in April, with an estimated 7,000 arriving in four days (UNHCR, 06/05/2015). More than 1,800 arrived in the first week of May. 4,200 refugees were registered in April, compared to an average of 1,000 per month in the first quarter of 2015 (UNHCR, 11/05/2015).

Leitchuor and Nip Nip camps were so damaged by flooding in 2014 they are not suitable for the settlement of refugees. They currently host 48,755 and 1,110 refugees, respectively (UNHCR, 08/05/2015). Relocation to Pugnido camp is ongoing. Pugnido now hosts 62,154 refugees (UNHCR, 12/05/2015). Refugees from Leitchuor and Nip Nip are also being relocated to Jewi, a new camp near Gambella, which has a capacity of 50,000 (OCHA, 10/03/2015). By 10 May, more than 4,200 people had been relocated to Jewi (UNHCR, 11/05/2015). Relocation has slowed as refugees are unwilling to leave their communities (WFP, 01/04/2015). Other refugees have self-relocated in different parts of Nyinyang and along the Nip Nip–Jakawo corridor and Gambella–Matar highway (UNICEF, 15/08/2014; UNHCR, 10/11/2014). More land is needed to accommodate new arrivals from South Sudan (OCHA, 20/04/2015). As of January, two other sites, Kobe, with a capacity of 50,000, and Cholan, with a capacity of 20,000, have been identified and approved for development as refugee camps (UNHCR, 09/01/2015, 15/01/2015). 31,461 refugees are living within host communities (UNHCR, 12/05/2015).

Eritrea: As of April, Ethiopia hosts 135,665 Eritrean refugees, including 33,000 arrivals in 2014 (ECHO, 17/04/2015; UNHCR, 30/04/2015). There was a spike in daily arrivals in the last quarter of 2014: about 8,588 refugees arrived in October and November (OCHA, 24/11/2014). New refugees are transferred to Hitsat camp, which hosts about 27,560 people (OCHA, 24/11/2014). The recent spike has led to a shortage of health services, shelter, and core relief items. UNHCR has highlighted that the large number of unaccompanied minors is cause for grave protection concern (OCHA, 26/01/2015).

Somalia: As of April, there are 246,600 Somali refugees in Ethiopia, including 1,755 who have arrived since January 2015 (UNHCR, 06/05/2015). Most are located in Dolo Ado camps (UNHCR, 28/02/2015).

Sudan: As of April, there are 36,478 Sudanese refugees in Ethiopia (UNHCR, 30/04/2015).

Ethiopian Refugees in Neighbouring Countries

As of 1 January there were 3,275 Ethiopian refugees and asylum seekers in Djibouti (UNHCR, 31/01/2015).

As of 1 March there were 30,630 Ethiopian refugees and asylum seekers in Kenya (UNHCR, 14/04/2015).
159 Ethiopian refugees in Djibouti have returned to Ethiopia (IOM, 07/04/2015).

Food Security

An estimated 2.9 million people will require food assistance in 2015, including 381,000 people in need of assistance in April (Government, 31/01/2015).

Poor households in northeastern Afar and in the lowlands of Borena zone in Oromia will remain in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) until June. A joint assessment in mid-March identified an additional 10,000 people requiring food assistance in Borena, on top of the 106,000 identified in December 2014 (OCHA, 20/04/2015). In southern Afar, food security is expected to decline from IPC Phase 2 to IPC Phase 3 from May to June (FEWSNET, 15/03/2015).

Areas of particular concern are belg/gu/ganna/sugum rain-receiving areas in the lowlands of Afar region, Waghimra zones of Amhara region, Oromia region, areas of SNNPR, and Fafan and Fana in northeastern Ethiopia. After a delayed onset the seasonal gu rains gradually improved in most of the country, but most of the country, except the southwest and southeast, received below-average rainfall in April. Food insecurity and water and pasture shortages continue to worsen in areas reporting inadequate rainfall (OCHA, 30/04/2015; 04/05/2015).

Outlook

Belg crop production is likely to be well below average in June–July. Low production and labour demand will deteriorate food security in eastern Amhara and Tigray, SNNPR and eastern and central Oromia from July–September.

Due to seasonal staple food price increases and the approach of the dry season and secondary lean season in August, households in Borena will move from IPC Phase 2 to IPC Phase 3 July–September (FEWSNET, 15/03/2015; 30/04/2015).

Health and Nutrition

Malaria remains the main public health concern in all refugee camps, followed by respiratory tract infections and diarrhoeal diseases (IFRC 30/12/2014). Monitoring in Gambella region in 2014 showed critical gaps in medical personnel and supplies, as well as funds for public health clusters (OCHA, 11/08/2014).

An outbreak of acute jaundice syndrome was reported in Pugnido refugee camp, in sections of the camp that are relatively congested. 29 cases have been reported (UNHCR, 30/04/2015).

Measles

A nationwide measles outbreak is ongoing. As of 13 April, 10,121 suspected measles cases have been reported, of which 4,529 confirmed. 88% of cases are in Oromia region, mainly West Wellega, West Hararge, and Guji. 131 outbreak sites have been reported, with more than 4,000 confirmed cases in 2015. The most affected age group is 5–15 years (42%) (OCHA, 27/04/2015; 30/04/2015; 04/05/2015).

Nutrition

Malnutrition rates at the start of 2015 decreased in comparison to previous months, except in woredas that received poor kiremt rains, in North Gonder and Washmira zones of Amhara region (OCHA, 16/02/2015). An estimated 264,500 SAM cases will require assistance in 2015 (OCHA, 20/04/2015). 446,800 pregnant and breastfeeding women need nutrition interventions (OCHA, 15/03/2015).

An increasing number of moderate acute malnutrition cases were reported in Arero, Bule Hora, Melka Soda and Miyo woredas in Oromia, and more complicated SAM cases reported in Abaya and Gelena woredas in Oromia (OCHA, 20/04/2015).

Spikes of malnutrition were reported in April in Arsi, West Arsi, the lowlands of Bale, East and West Hararge zones of Oromia and parts of SNNP, especially Sidama and Wolayita (OCHA, 04/05/2015). Further spikes in malnutrition are expected during the April–June lean season (OCHA, 30/04/2015).

Refugee camps: In Gambella, the nutrition situation has improved somewhat overall, with 20.9% GAM and 4.8% SAM in 2015, compared to 29.3% and 8.9%, respectively, in 2014. The situation remains critical according to the WHO classification in Tierkidi (with 28.3% GAM and 8.6% SAM), Kule (21.3% and 5.2%) and Pugnido (24.2% and 4.8%). In Okugo camp, the nutritional situation is classified as serious, with 10.1% GAM and 0.8% SAM (UNHCR, 30/04/2015).

WASH

Increasing water shortages reported in Somali, Oromia, Amhara, and Afar regions are affecting 950,000 people. Water trucking is ongoing, but critical gaps remain (UNICEF, 21/04/2015). Water shortages continue in Legahida and Salahad woredas of Nogob zone, Somali region (OCHA, 13/04/2015). 13,000 people in Minjar Shenkora and East Belessa woredas in Amhara region are in immediate need of water trucking support (OCHA, 13/04/2015).

1.2 million people are in need of improved access to safe water and water sources (UNICEF, 31/10/2014).

Sanitation has improved in camps, and some latrine ratios are lower than the UNHCR standard of 1:50: 1:19 in Kule, 1:43 in Leitchuor and 1:6 in Okugo (UNHCR, 27/02/2015). Water supply per day has deteriorated: in Tierkidi it is 17.3L per person, 17.8L per person in Kule, 17.8L per person in Leitchuor, 15L per person in Pugnido, and 9L per person in Nip Nip. The only camp meeting the UNHCR standard of 20L per person is Okugo, with 24L per person (UNHCR, 01/03/2015). Water quality and quantity meet minimum standard in Gambella and Dollo Ado camps. But in Gambella, inadequate sanitation services and poor hygiene practices continue to negatively affect the nutrition status of refugees (UNHCR, 30/04/2015).

Protection

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As of 24 March 2015, 18,379 unaccompanied minors and separated children were identified among the refugee population (UNHCR, 24/03/2015).

Child protection

18,924 South Sudanese unaccompanied and separated children have been identified in Gambella (UNHCR, 01/05/2015).

Vulnerable Groups and Minorities

The Kwegu, a small tribe in Ethiopia’s Lower Omo Valley, are in need of humanitarian assistance due to the destruction of their land to make way for the Gibe III dam and associated large-scale irrigation. Reports indicate no consultation took place with the indigenous peoples in Lower Omo Valley about projects on their land, and some tribes were forcibly settled by the Government in a process called “villagisation” (Survival International, 10/03/2015).

Updated: 15/05/2015

GAMBIA FOOD INSECURITY

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

31 March: Over March-May, 412,000 people are in IPC Phase 2 (Stressed) food insecurity, and 101,000 are in IPC Phases 3-5 (Crisis – Famine) food insecurity. Numbers are projected to increase over June-August 2015 (FAO/WFP, 31/03/2015).

KEY CONCERNS

- Over March-May, 412,000 people are in IPC Phase 2 (Stressed) food insecurity, and 101,000 are in IPC Phases 3-5 (Crisis – Famine) food insecurity. Numbers are projected to increase over June-August 2015 (FAO/WFP, 31/03/2015).

- 10,000 children suffer from severe acute malnutrition (OCHA, 10/02/2015; 13/02/2015).

Political and Security Context

On 30 December, an attempted coup was reported as gunfire was heard outside the presidential palace in the capital Banjul while President Yahya Jammeh was out of the country (UN, 01/01/2015). The situation in Banjul has since calmed.

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Displacement

Refugees in the Gambia

As of September 2014, around 9,500 refugees, mostly Senegalese from the Casamance region, live in the Gambia (OCHA, 31/08/2014). Smaller numbers of refugees come from Liberia, Sierra Leone, Côte d’Ivoire, and Togo.

Food Security

Over March-May, 412,000 people are in IPC Phase 2 (Stressed) food insecurity, and 101,000 are in IPC Phases 3-5 (Crisis – Famine) food insecurity. Numbers are projected to rise to 406,000 and 126,000, respectively, over June-August 2015 (FAO/WFP, 31/03/2015).

Aggregate cereal production in 2014 will drop by 75% compared to 2013, to about 57,000 metric tons, due to irregular rains causing poor growing conditions. Production of groundnut, the main cash crop, is anticipated to decline by more than 80%. Access to food will be further constrained by high cereal prices and depreciation of the national currency, which has increased domestic prices of imported food commodities (FAO, 05/11/2014). The Ebola epidemic in neighbouring countries is further aggravating food insecurity, as the crisis has led to a 60% decline in tourism, a significant source of income (Reuters, 12/02/2015).

Sahel Food Crisis: Regional Overview

20.4 million people in the Sahel (Burkina Faso, north Cameroon, Chad, the Gambia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, north Nigeria, and Senegal) are expected to suffer from food insecurity in 2015 (OCHA, 10/02/2015). In 2014, food insecurity rose dramatically, affecting 24.7 million people, compared to 2013, when 11.3 million people had insufficient food (OCHA, 03/02/2014).

Agricultural Outlook

Over June-August 2015, below average precipitation is very likely over Gambia (African Regional Climate Centre, 30/04/2015).

Health

Nutrition

10,220 children are severely malnourished as of February 2015, an increase compared to 8,000 severely malnourished in mid-2014 (OCHA, 02/2015; 09/2014).

Updated: 13/05/2015

GUINEA FOOD INSECURITY, EPIDEMIC

pre-crisis vulnerability + % population affected + humanitarian access

Severi ty: minimal low moderate severe + + + See the methodology note for details.

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS
10 May: In the week to 10 May seven confirmed Ebola cases were reported: six from Forecariah and one from Dubreka prefecture (WHO, 13/05/2015).

7 May: Protesters demanding revision of the election calendar clashed with security forces in Conakry (AFP).

6 May: 1,658 suspected measles cases were reported in Guinea, including seven deaths (WHO).

KEY CONCERNS

- The cumulative number of reported Ebola cases across the region has reached 26,755, including 11,072 deaths. As of 12 May, 3,615 cumulative Ebola cases, including 2,399 deaths, have been reported in Guinea (WHO, 14/05/2015). The numbers of registered cases and deaths are largely inaccurate.

- Between February and March 2015, 1.35 million (15%) of Guinea’s population were in Phase 2 food insecurity, and 275,000 in Phase 3 (5%). These figures are expected to reach 1.5 million in Phase 2 (20%) and 395,000 in Phase 3 (5%) in the lean season between June and August 2015 (Cadre Harmonisé, 01/03/2015).

- Resistance to the Ebola response continues to be reported.

For more information on the Ebola crisis in West Africa, visit the ACAPS Ebola Needs Analysis Project page.

Political Context

Presidential elections are due in 2015, but in 2014 President Condé suggested delaying them because of the Ebola crisis (International Crisis Group, 01/11/2014). The opposition held protest rallies in January, demanding electoral commission reform (International Crisis Group, 01/02/2015). On 24 February, the Government replaced the minister charged with organising this year's presidential election with an army general on 24 February, saying the move was necessary to strengthen the fight against Ebola (Reuters, 01/03/2015). In April, the opposition again staged protests, demanding the revision of the electoral calendar. Local elections, which could galvanise support for the opposition, have been scheduled for March 2016, after planned presidential elections (local media, 10/05/2015).

The Ebola response has increased tensions between President Condé’s ethnic group, the Malinke, who make up about 35% of the population, and the Fulani ethnic group, about 40% of the population, who mainly support the opposition (local media, 18/10/2014).

Security Context

Unrest

Security Context

Unrest

Food Security

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Access

Poor road infrastructure means many communities outside the capital are extremely difficult to reach (OCHA, 16/09/2014). Rains have started already in some areas and become heavier in May, making some areas inaccessible by car (Plan, 07/04/2015). Community resistance, especially in Forecariah, also challenges relief activities, as the community does not want to receive support associated with the response to the Ebola epidemic (WFP, 13/02/2015).

Resistance to the Ebola response

Though resistance to the Ebola response continues to be a challenge, there are indications of improved access in certain communities (USAID, 16/04/2015). Community resistance was reported in Boffa, Boke, and Kindia in the week to 19 April, and at least one incident of resistance was reported per day in Conakry over the past six weeks (WHO, 22/04/2015). Between 30 March and 12 April, IFRC only reported one incident in Conakry (IFRC, 20/04/2015). In Coyah prefecture, the health team was attacked following a death and burial in the community and the security forces had to intervene (UNMEER, 17/04/2015). During the three-day stay-at-home in Coyah prefecture from 24–27 April, several incidents were reported. Two involving threats by armed locals (UNMEER, 29/04/2015).

A measles vaccination campaign in Gueckedou has faced some resistance, which was typically passive and due to persisting fear of Ebola (IRIN, 29/04/2015).

A Knowledge, Attitudes and Practice study concluded that 75% of resistance stems from lack of information or misinformation, with some people doubting the sincerity of EVD-related messages, in part due to its resemblance to other diseases in Guinea. The interventions which most frequently trigger resistance are safe burials, disinfection of public places (schools), and contact tracing activities (USAID, 25/02/2015). Some still believe Ebola is a myth and sick relatives continue to be hidden. Traditional practices, such as washing of the dead body, are still conducted (IRIN, 23/03/2015; Voice of America, 24/03/2015).

The Red Cross said members of its staff in Guinea are attacked on average ten times per month (IFRC, 12/02/2015). The Prime Minister has announced measures against resistance, including prosecution of those who hide patients from medical teams or those who hold medical teams hostage (International media, 12/01/2015).
Between February and March 2015, 275,000 people (5% of the population) are in Phase 3, or Crisis, food insecurity. These figures are expected to climb to 395,000 in Phase 3 and 1.5 million in Phase 2 in the June–August lean season (Cadre Harmonisé, 01/03/2015).

Almost 90% of the Ebola-driven food insecure live in rural areas (FEWSNET, 31/12/2014). Those who have not been able to harvest their crops, due to rupture of activities and containment measures related to the Ebola outbreak, have already entered the lean season (PI, 18/02/2015).

Agriculture and Markets

All agricultural sectors have been hit by the crisis. In the Forest region, Ebola-related fears have reduced the availability of agricultural labour, resulting in reduced yields. Prices of local/imported rice and palm oil remained above average, but generally stable (WFP, 25/03/2015). Off-season harvesting and large private grain stocks are reducing local price increases (FEWSNET, 01/05/2015). Based on commercial forecasts, Guinea has a rice import gap of about 44,000 metric tons, of an estimated 340,000 metric tons to be imported from October 2014–September 2015 (WFP, 05/01/2015).

Daily and weekly markets are open, but functioning at reduced levels in April 2015 compared to April 2014. This is due to Ebola-related fear, low household purchasing power, limited cross-border flows and a reduced demand for export (FEWSNET, 01/05/2015).

Livelihoods

Typical livelihood activities, including vegetable and cassava harvests and agricultural and mining, have resumed and are providing rural households with income. Income from other sources, such as petty trade, handicrafts and casual labour remain limited due to reduced market activity (FEWSNET, 01/05/2015).

Health and Nutrition

National attendance at health facilities fell sharply from August 2013 to August 2014. Primary medical consultations dropped by 58%, hospitalisations by 54%, and vaccinations by 30% (UNDP, 19/12/2014).

There has been an almost 50% reduction in the number of children vaccinated due to Ebola (UNICEF, 17/12/2014).

Ebola

As of 12 May, 3,615 cumulative Ebola cases, including 2,399 deaths, have been reported in Guinea (WHO, 14/05/2015). The utility of case numbers has been questioned; statistics are reported to be highly unreliable due to a lack of a comprehensive contact tracing, timely case investigation, and rapid Ebola testing (UNICEF, 06/09/2014).

Seven confirmed cases were reported in the week to 10 May, compared to nine cases the previous week. Six cases came from Forecariah prefecture, one from Dubreka. 18 of the 25 affected prefectures have not reported any Ebola cases in more than six weeks (WHO, 13/05/2015).

Containment measures: Contact tracing remains a challenge. There are several reports of losing contacts in Conakry, Coyah, Boké, and Forecariah (UNMEER, 20/04/2015). Insecurity due to the electoral protests in the week of 13 April decreased contact tracing by 50% in Conakry. Burial teams were unable to attend some funerals (Ebola Deeply, 20/04/2015). There are still concerns about the number of cases arising from unknown contacts and the Ebola-related deaths that continue to be confirmed in the community post mortem (IFRC, 20/04/2015).

The President announced a 45-day ‘health emergency’ in Forecariah, Coyah, Conakry, Kindia, Boffa and Dubreka. Health facilities where Ebola cases have been reported recently are closed, all burials should be carried out by the Red Cross or security forces, and stay-at-home periods are implemented in these prefectures to enhance case-finding and community awareness (AI Jazeera, 28/03/2015; BBC, 29/03/2015; international media, 29/03/2015; UNMEER, 01/04/2015).

The risk of cross-border transmission has increased as market days in Koinadugu, Sierra Leone, and family ties in Kono, Sierra Leone, have led to an increase cross-border traffic (USAID, 07/04/2015). Officials from Guinea and Sierra Leone have agreed to share information on cross-border movement and intend to establish screening protocols (UNMEER, 07/04/2015).

On 25 February, Liberia reopened its border with Guinea (UNMEER, 26/02/2015). Guinea opened its border with Liberia at Ganta in the week of 13 April. Yekepa border post is open, as is the checkpoint in Kondadou Lofa prefecture. IPC protocols are in place. (UNMEER, 15/04/2015).

Healthcare provision: As of 6 May, 187 health workers have been infected, 94 of whom have died (UNICEF, 06/05/2015).

Regional Outbreak

26,755 cumulative Ebola cases have been reported across the region, including 11,072 deaths (WHO, 14/05/2015).

HIV

About 130,000 people have HIV, and 28,000 received antiretroviral therapy (ART) in 2014. From April to December 2014, the proportion of defaulters among patients receiving ART increased from 0% to 42% because of the pressure on the health system due to the Ebola outbreak (The Lancet, 11/04/2015).

Malaria

Recent gains from the past ten years in reducing malaria mortality by 50% have been seriously hampered by the Ebola outbreak. About five million people are affected by malaria each year; the disease kills at least ten people every week (international media, 14/11/2014).

Maternal Health
Medical studies have shown that Ebola mortality rate for pregnant women and newborn babies can be as high as 95%. Fear and misinformation about the impact of Ebola on health services have made women reluctant to access maternal and reproductive health services, as well as prevention of mother-to-child HIV transmission (UN WOMEN, 27/03/2015). A 10–25% decline in antenatal consultations has been reported, as well as a 7–20% drop in births attended by the health service (UNDP, 19/12/2014).

Measles

The number of suspected measles cases continues to increase. As of 6 May, 1,658 suspected measles cases were reported in Guinea, including seven deaths. Recent peaks have been observed in Lola, Macenta and Kankan prefectures (WHO, 29/04/2015; 06/05/2015). Difficulty reaching children in remote areas hampered a measles vaccination campaign in Gabual and Koundara prefectures (UNICEF, 16/03/2015). A nationwide measles vaccination campaign only achieved 39% participation in Nzerekore prefecture by the third day, far below the target of 95% by the end of the campaign (UNMEER, 24/04/2015).

Meningitis

180 suspected meningitis cases and 16 deaths have been reported, with the most recent cases coming from Kankan (WHO, 06/05/2015).

Nutrition

Relative to trends between 1992 and 2012, the prevalence of undernourishment during 2014–2016 could increase by 0.49%, to 1.72% (UNDG, 11/03/2015).

Education

Some parents are reportedly refusing to send their children to school, or students are declining to attend classes due to EVD fears (USAID, 28/01/2015). A reported 159 primary and secondary schools remain closed in February, notably in Forecariah, Boffa and Faranah (UNICEF, 11/02/2015; international media, 19/01/2015; Government, 11/02/2015). In Faranah and Forecariah, a lower percentage of schools have reopened, because of community resistance and a lack of teachers (UNICEF, 04/02/2015).

Protection

A UNDP study suggests women have been disproportionately affected by the Ebola virus, especially in certain regions. In Gueckedou, women represent 62% of the infected, and in Télémilé, women make up 74%. This could be explained by women's role in family and resulting increased exposure. (UNMEER, 11/02/2015; UNDP, 30/01/2015).

As of 22 April, 5,596 children have been identified as having lost one or both parents to Ebola (UNICEF, 22/04/2015). All 773 children who lost both parents have been placed with extended family (UNICEF, 06/02/2015).

Health workers and survivors are stigmatised (MSF, 26/01/2015). There are reports of recovered patients not being accepted into their communities, despite awareness-raising in the community (USAID, 18/03/2015).

Updated: 13/05/2015

KENYA FOOD INSECURITY, INSECURITY

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

11-12 May: At least nine people were killed and many others injured after a building collapsed due to heavy rains in Nairobi (ECHO, 13/05/2015).

6 May: About 75 people were killed in four days of cattle raids and revenge attacks between communities in Turkana and East Pokot and in Marsabit, Sambutu and Baringo (AFP).

May: The number of refugees arriving from South Sudan has decreased compared to April as a result of heavy rains in Kapoeta (IOM, 06/05/2015).

KEY CONCERNS

- Violence in the capital Nairobi, as well as northeastern and coastal areas; two-thirds of attacks attributed to the Somali Islamist Al Shabaab movement.
- Inter-communal tensions are running high: Inter-communal violence in Kenya caused 310 deaths, 214 injuries and displaced 220,200 in 2014. Mandaera, Marsabit, Turkana, Baringo, and Moyale counties are the most affected (OCHA, UNHCR, 12/2014).
- More than 586,224 refugees, including at least 420,000 Somalis and 90,000 South Sudanese (UNHCR 01/04/2015).
- 1.6 million people are acutely food insecure (02/2015, FEWSNET).

Political Context

Kenya is considered relatively stable in the Horn of Africa and held peaceful presidential elections in March 2013. However, the country remains ethnically polarised and affected by two decades of conflict in neighbouring Somalia. The implementation of a devolution process, land reform, and national reconciliation all challenge stability in a country where institutions are perceived to be weak.

On 16 December, the Government de-registered 510 NGOs, accusing them of using their charitable status as a front for raising funds for terrorism. Many of the NGOs appear to be aid agencies, Christian organisations, orphanages, or organisations working in
Security Context

The frequency and scale of militant attacks in Kenya have increased dramatically since 2011, when Kenyan troops began operating in Somalia, as has the nature of the violence. Al Shabaab has built a cross-border presence and clandestine support network among the Muslim population in the northeast, in Nairobi, and on the coast. Non-Muslims continue to be targeted.

The increasing radicalisation of the ethnic Somali Muslim population is allegedly fuelled by systematic ethnic profiling and discrimination. Muslims make up 11% of Kenya’s 40 million population. In addition, deadly inter-communal violence remains common in a number of areas, particularly in Turkana and Baringo.

Al Shabaab-related Violence

On 1 April, ten armed men, thought to belong to Al Shabaab, stormed the premises of an NGO working in Dadaab refugee camp in Hagadera, Garissa county, killing one person and injuring three (local media, 01/04/2015).

On 2 April, Al Shabaab gunmen launched an attack on the campus of Garissa University in Garissa, leaving 148 people dead and 79 people injured. Some Muslim students were set free while Christians were held hostage and executed (AFP, 02/04/2015; HRW, 03/04/2015). This is the deadliest attack by Al Shabaab in Kenya since the 1998 bombing of the US embassy in Nairobi. In response, the government ordered the recruitment of 10,000 individuals to boost the police force. On 6 April, Kenyan fighter jets bombed positions held by Al Shabaab in Somalia (Reuters, 04/04/2015; BBC, 06/04/2015).

The April attacks follow several months of escalating Al Shabaab activity and military response in Kenya. Al Shabaab gunmen killed 28 non-Muslims taken from a Nairobi bound bus in Mandera in November retaliating for Kenyan police raids of suspected radical mosques in Mombasa earlier in the month (OCHA, 28/11/2014). Health workers, teachers, and civil servants subsequently fled the area. Attempts to hire new health workers have failed, as perceptions of insecurity remain high (Kenya Daily Nation, 27/11/2014; local media, 26/03/2015). Al Shabaab launched further attacks in Wajir and Mandera in early December, killing 37 in total and injuring 12 (AFP, 01/12/2014; AFP 02/12/2014).

On 14 April, the Kenyan government offered a ten-day amnesty to youths who had joined Al Shabaab and now wish to disassociate themselves. The Government stated they would consider granting amnesty and appropriate reintegration support (Government of Ethiopia, 15/04/2015).

Inter-communal Violence

A growth in the population of both people and livestock has led to more frequent cattle raiding and violence, fed by the availability of small arms. As of the end of November 2014, inter-communal violence in Kenya had caused 310 deaths, 214 injuries and displaced 220,200 (OCHA, 31/11/2014). The areas most affected by inter-communal violence are the northern Rift Valley and northeastern regions. Displacement resulting from ethnic fights, cattle rustling and other crime is making voter registration difficult for affected communities in Laikipia, Samburu and Baringo counties (local media, 06/05/2015).

On 9 March, a group of 30 armed men raided the village of Suyian in North Samburu, stealing cattle, and killing two people and injuring two (local media, 10/03/2015). A clash over land between Mwimbi and Tharaka people on 10 March left one dead in Meru, eastern Kenya (local media, 10/03/2015).

Conflicts in Baringo and Turkana

Raid in Baringo in December 2014 displaced tens of thousands. The Government has since stepped up efforts to evict Pokot herders from North and South Baringo in order to ensure security in the area (local media, 19/03/2015). On 5 February, the leaders of the Turkana and Pokot tribes met for peace talks (Finn Church Aid, 05/02/2015). However, all the police reservists in Kalloseget village, Turkana, have been killed, either while guarding herders at grazing fields or helping recover stolen animals. Most herds have been stolen, severely impacting livelihoods (local media, 23/03/2015). In early May, about 75 people were killed in four days of cattle raids and revenge attacks between tribes in Turkana and East Pokot districts and in Marsabit, Sambutu and Baringo (international media, 06/05/2015).

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Disasters

Drought

Acute water shortages have affected parts of Western Kenya following a long dry spell, particularly parts of Homa Bay, Siaya, and Kisumu counties. Residents have to walk several kilometres to retrieve water. The situation has caused a food shortage, as most of these areas rely on rain-fed agriculture (Kenya Daily Nation, 10/02/2015). Most water points in pastoral areas are depleted and livestock trekking distances have increased 20–50% compared to normal. Distances are expected to increase further as the short lean season progresses (Government, 03/03/2015).

All subcounties in Meru have recorded a decline in vegetation growing conditions, particularly for maize and beans (local media, 20/01/2015). In the past, food insecurity has been the cause of inter-clan violence in Meru.

Floods

Nearly 1,500 people have been affected by floods in Kisumu County in early April. Breached banks in Muhoroni have destroyed crops and houses. A recent assessment indicated that most children and the elderly were more likely to contract diseases because of the lack of food (Kenya Red Cross, 11/04/2015). Cholera and water-borne diseases have affected Kisumu almost every year due to water scarcity and floods (local media, 11/04/2015).

Following rains on 15 April, many areas of Kakuma refugee camp were flooded. While
most of the roads and some blocks were flooded, there were no signs of displacement or collapsed houses (OCHA, 17/04/2015).

In the week of 8 May, torrential rains led to flooding across Nyanza and Nairobi provinces (FEWSNET, 07/05/2015). On 11-12 May, at least nine people were killed and many others injured after a building collapsed in Nairobi due to heavy rains. Several roads were also reported flooded (ECHO, 13/05/2015). More than 400 people had their house damaged by heavy rain and strong wind in Kaereni village, Nairobi province (local media, 06/05/2015). In Mombasa, heavy rains on 4 May rendered roads impassable by flooding and forced shops to close. Residential areas were most affected (local media, 04/05/2015).

Displacement

IDPs

On 11 February, Kenya had 309,200 IDPs (OCHA, 11/02/2014).

As of 30 November 2014, inter-communal violence had caused the displacement of 125,107 people in Mandera, 84,980 in Wajir, 4,920 in Lamu and 1,730 in Turkana in 2014. Conflicts in Baringo in December caused the displacement of at least 17,600 people. Mid-January reports indicate that the displaced are facing acute food shortages and are still in need of shelter support (local media, 25/01/2015). The Government has provided aid to facilitate the return of 5,000 of the displaced (local media, 19/03/2015).

Heavy rains on 6 April displaced 1,500 in Kasese village and more than 350 people in Achuodho village, in Kisumu County, western Kenya. Roads to the villages have been rendered impassable. Residents were forced to leave their homes for higher ground, while others sought refuge in churches and schools (local media, 06/04/2015).

Refugees

As of 1 April, Kenya is hosting more than 586,224 refugees and asylum seekers. 223,970 are in Dadaab, 127,476 in Alinjugur, 181,621 in Kakuma and 52,957 in Nairobi (UNHCR, 1/04/2015).

From Somalia: As of April, 423,153 Somali refugees are in Kenya. 13,162 arrived in 2014, indicating a considerable drop in arrivals (UNHCR, 01/04/2015; 06/05/2015). 1,362 refugees have been registered since January 2015 (UNHCR, 06/05/2015). Most are in the northeastern Dadaab refugee camp complex (UNHCR, 15/03/2015). Additionally, there are 2,620 asylum seekers (UNHCR, 24/03/2015). Security in Dadaab and along the border with Somalia is volatile, with frequent incidents being reported and implications for the safety of humanitarian workers (ECHO, 17/04/2015).

The Tripartite Agreement between the Kenyan and Somali Governments and UNHCR, signed in November 2013, establishes the legal framework for those Somali refugees wishing to return home (IOM, UNHCR, 09/12/2014). As of 21 April, 2,060 returnees had arrived in Somalia (UNHCR, 21/04/2015). On 12 April, Kenyan officials had asked UNHCR to close Dadaab camp and repatriate all Somali refugees within two months (Al Jazeera, 12/04/2015). Following numerous statements from humanitarian organisations, Kenyan officials announced on 21 April that the plans would be put on hold, as it was too expensive. The Kenyan government is now requesting resources from partners and donors for the repatriation of refugees (MSF, UNHCR, DRC, 17/04/2015; local media, 21/04/2015).

From South Sudan: As of 7 May, 45,811 South Sudanese refugees had crossed into Kenya through Nadapal border since mid-December 2013 (OCHA, 09/04/2015; UNHCR, 08/05/2015). 64% of these are children (UNICEF, 05/02/2015). The total population of South Sudanese refugees in Kenya had reached 90,714 in February 2015 (UNHCR, 01/02/2015).

There is a critical need for land. Kakuma camp has exceeded its capacity of 125,000 by over 56,000 refugees (UNHCR, 19/03/2015). The overpopulation and burden on services is causing friction among refugee communities, and security forces are finding it more difficult to manage situations (UNHCR, 14/11/2014). New arrivals average less than 100 people per week (UNHCR, 07/05/2015). The number of new refugees arriving has decreased compared to April due to heavy rains in Kapoeta (IOM, 06/05/2015).

From Ethiopia: As of 24 March, There are 30,478 Ethiopian refugees and asylum seekers in Kenya (UNHCR, 24/03/2015).

From DRC: As of 24 March, There are 17,303 DRC refugees and asylum seekers in Kenya (UNHCR, 24/03/2015).

From Sudan: As of 24 March, there are 9,631 refugees and asylum seekers in Sudan (UNHCR, 24/03/2015).

Access

Humanitarian workers on the ground have reported that poor roads, hilly terrain and protection concerns along the northern Rift Valley and northeastern regions hamper the delivery of aid (OCHA, 31/11/2014).

Food Security

Due to below-average rains, constrained food access and high food prices, over 1.6 million people, mainly in the northern pastoral areas, are food insecure. The food insecure population is 75% larger than in 2013 (UNICEF, 05/02/2015).

On 10 February, authorities reported that 25 constituencies in Mandera need emergency food. WFP, the leading food supplier in the area, is said to have stopped supplies in the area. No new batches are expected to arrive in the near future. Interim supplies and resources are available from local government, UNHCR and other humanitarian partners (UNHCR, local media, 10/02/2015). On 11 February, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) announced that food insecurity had increased in 2015 (OCHA, 11/02/2015). An estimated 400,000 people in North Rift are in dire need of food relief (local media, 01/03/2015).

Hotter-than-normal conditions from January through March are likely to lead to a more severe deterioration of rangeland. Livestock productivity is continuing to decline. The majority of households in pastoral areas will remain Stressed (IPC Phase 2) through June; parts of Isiolo, Wajir, Garissa, Turkana, and Marsabit that had inadequate short rains are in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) (FEWSNET, 26/03/2015).

Agriculture and Markets

Due to below-average rains, constrained food access and high food prices, over 1.6 million people, mainly in the northern pastoral areas, are food insecure. The food insecure population is 75% larger than in 2013 (UNICEF, 05/02/2015).
Delayed and inadequate long rains have sparked fears of inadequate harvests next season, causing the price of food to steadily rise since January. On 20 April, the government released maize stocks held by authorities in attempts to stop the increasing price of flour across the country (local media, 20/04/2015).

The short rains’ crops are expected to be 40% to 50% below average in volume (FEWSNET, 04/02/2015).

Livelihood

On 7 April, the Central Bank of Kenya closed 13 remittance firms, in an effort to curb the financing of terrorism. This has affected Somali refugees in Kenya, as families are unable to receive funds from abroad. 30 remittances outlets work in Dadaab, all of which have suspended their businesses for fear of police harassment (IRIN, UN, 10/04/2015).

Due to the recent cholera outbreak in Migori and Kisii county, the sale of food on the street has been banned. Local media report the ban has affected 10,000 traders (local media, 11/02/2015; local media, 25/02/2015).

Pronounced rainfall deficits in March, the early stage of the long rains, has put further pressure on the livelihoods of pastoralists in semiarid lands. However, widespread and above average rain was received in April (WFP, 08/05/2015).

Health and Nutrition

Lack of medical staff was reported in Kakuma camp, creating a gap in consistent service delivery. Insufficient supply of condoms, vaccines, and associated materials were also reported (UNHCR, 28/01/2015). The ratio of hygiene promoters to refugees in Kakuma camp is 1:2,500, well below the UNHCR standard of 1:500 (UNHCR, 09/01/2015).

Eleven of 26 health facilities in Mandera have closed because staff have left the county (UNICEF, 05/02/2015).

Cholera

Since late December 2014, a cholera outbreak has affected seven counties: Nairobi, Migori, Homa Bay, Bomet, Mombasa, Nakuru and Muranga. As of 5 May, 2,156 cases had been reported nationally, including 42 deaths. In Migori, Homa Bay and Bomet the outbreak is under control. 274 cumulative cases were reported in the week to 7 May, including six deaths (Government, 05/05/2015).

Nutrition

Around 310,000 pastoral children in northern Kenya suffer from acute malnutrition (UNICEF, 29/01/2015).

SAM rates among South Sudanese refugees arriving in Kakuma camp in February were 11.1%, a decrease from 15.4% in October 2014. GAM was at 20.5%, a decrease from 29.3% in October 2014 (UNHCR, 23/10/2014, 28/02/2015).

WASH

As of 7 May the average amount of water supplied to residents in Kakuma 4 camp was at 18.75 litres per person per day, an increase from 13.4 the previous week. As rainfall destroyed the main water supply pipeline for two days, the supply was intermittent (UNHCR, 08/05/2015).

Education

Sexual offences have been on the rise in Kwale county, eastern Kenya, and this has forced girls to drop out of school (Kenya Daily Nation, 07/02/2015).

Access to education has been disrupted for 9,000 schoolchildren in Mandera, because non-local teachers were advised by their unions not to report to duty in 2015 (UNICEF, 05/02/2015). Authorities are having great difficulties in hiring new local staff (local media, 26/02/2015).

More than 20 schools have been closed in Baringo North and South due to insecurity. An attack on a primary school in Baringo South, where armed raiders shot dead a security guard, has further aggravated the situation (local media, 21/01/2015). More than 1,000 teachers have refused to go back to Baringo since January. A number of schools failed to open for the second term on 4 May due to insecurity (international media, 06/05/2015).

Protection

Following Al Shabaab attacks in Mandera in late November, a new security bill was introduced limiting the rights of people who are arrested and accused, adding harsh criminal penalties, and restricting freedoms of expression and assembly. On 23 February, Kenya’s High Court discarded key aspects of the law, including those which curb media freedom and introduce a refugee cap (BBC, 23/02/2015). In January, Human Rights Watch issued a report that highlighted the government’s efforts to tackle insecurity have been marred by serious human rights violations, including extrajudicial killings, arbitrary detentions and torture by security forces (HRW, 29/01/2015).

Child Protection

14,619 South Sudanese refugee children are unaccompanied or separated minors (UNHCR, 31/01/2015). Trafficking of separated South Sudanese children is a growing phenomenon in Kenya. Traffickers find the children on their way to or inside refugee camps and take them to southern Africa, often Malawi, where they use or sell them as slaves (Jesuit Refugee Service, 14/01/2015).

Updated: 12/05/2015

LIBERIA FOOD INSECURITY, EPIDEMIC

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS
9 May: The Ebola outbreak in Liberia has been declared over (WHO, 09/05/2015).

**KEY CONCERNS**

- The last confirmed Ebola patient died on 27 March (WHO, 15/04/2015).
- 26,724 cumulative Ebola cases across the region, including 11,065 deaths (WHO, 12/05/2015).
- 1.23 million people are facing Stressed (IPC Phase 2) food insecurity, and 190,000 are in Crisis (Phase 3). Crisis food insecurity is projected to increase to 720,000 people (15% of the population) in the lean season (June–August), particularly in Nimba, Lofa, Bong, Margibi, and Montserrado counties (Cadre Harmonisé 03/2015).
- There is insufficient capacity to meet non-Ebola medical needs, leading to an increase in non-Ebola related morbidity and mortality.

For more information on the Ebola crisis in West Africa, visit the ACAPS Ebola Needs Analysis Project page.

**International Presence**

The Security Council has extended the mandate of the UN Mission in Liberia until 30 September 2015, in light of the consequences of the Ebola outbreak for national reform (UNSC, 15/12/2014).

**Humanitarian Context and Needs**

**Access**

The heavy rains are due to begun in Liberia during May. It will be difficult to reach hospital and clinics, electricity will not be available for long periods, and water and sanitation infrastructure will be disrupted (Plan, 07/04/2015).

**Refugees in Liberia**

Liberia is hosting 39,843 refugees, asylum seekers and others of concern, including 37,907 refugees from Côte d’Ivoire. Voluntary repatriation of Ivorian refugees was suspended by the Government of Côte d’Ivoire at the beginning of the Ebola epidemic, but on 12 March UNHCR, Liberia and Côte d’Ivoire agreed to resume repatriation (UNMEER, 15/03/2015; UNHCR, international media, 23/04/2015).

**Food Security**

As of March, 1.23 million people are facing Stressed (IPC Phase 2) food insecurity, and 190,000 Crisis (Phase 3). Rates of negative coping strategies remain highest in Lofa, Bomi, Gbarpolu, and Grand Cape Mount counties (WFP, 31/03/2015).

The end of the harvest has improved the situation in rural areas since March, but food insecurity has increased in urban areas (World Bank, 15/04/2015). Nonetheless, WFP reports that urban households tend to use fewer coping strategies than rural ones (WFP, 31/03/2015). Increased unemployment rates are likely contributing to reduced household food access (FEWSNET, 01/05/2015).

Cadre Harmonisé projects 720,000 people, equal to 15% of the population, will reach Crisis (IPC Level 3) food insecurity in the June–August lean season, as poor and very poor households in Nimba, Lofa, Bong, Margibi, and Montserrado counties will have insufficient purchasing power (Cadre Harmonisé 03/2015; WFP, 31/03/2015).

**Agriculture and Markets**

Surveys indicated that local and imported rice prices remained stable in March, but are still well above average. Imported rice, local rice and palm oil prices rose significantly in Lofa county in April (WFP, 08/05/2015; World Bank, 15/04/2015).

Over 26% of respondents to a FEWSNET survey reported that the most important market in their area was operating at reduced levels (FEWSNET, 05/05/2015).

65% of agricultural households report a smaller harvest than last year (World Bank, 15/04/2015). In April, 21% of traders reported that rice cultivation was taking place at below-average levels (FEWSNET, 01/05/2015). Decreased agricultural production is of particular concern in Bomi, Bong, and Lofa counties, where the impact will become clear during the October 2015 harvest (ACAPS, 04/2015). Agricultural sector growth will decline by over 2% due to the Ebola outbreak, according to a recent recovery report (UN, 26/03/2015).

60% of Liberians rely on imported staple crops, and a rice import gap of 90,000 metric tons is exacerbating food insecurity, based on commercial forecasts (FAO, 05/01/2015; 22/01/2015).

**Livelihoods**

Two-thirds of respondents in a nationwide multisectoral assessment considered the income generation situation worse in April 2015 than before the Ebola outbreak. Access to income generation is prioritised over health and education (ACAPS, 04/2015). More than 39% of people surveyed in April reported fewer wage opportunities compared to the same period in the previous year (FEWSNET, 05/05/2015). In March, 45% of respondents who were employed between February and August 2014 reported that they were currently out of work (FEWSNET, 01/05/2015). Women are particularly vulnerable since they work disproportionately in non-farm self-employment. 95% of women who were engaged in small business have
lost their markets and are accumulating debt, which they will struggle to repay (UN, 26/03/2015). Microcredit, one of women’s main sources of funding, has decreased to negligible amounts (Cadre Harmonisé, 03/2015).

In a World Bank survey, 85% of participants reported having sold assets, sold or slaughtered livestock, borrowed money, sent children to live with relatives, spent savings, or delayed investments since the start of the Ebola crisis (World Bank, 24/02/2015).

Health and Nutrition

Nearly all health facilities in the country are open, but most are operating at reduced levels compared to before the outbreak. A recent assessment of non-Ebola health facilities in Montserrado county showed 40% had a functional triage system (WHO, 11/03/2015). Between August and December 2014, the number of outpatient visits decreased by 61% compared with the same period in 2013 (UN 26/03/2015).

The Ebola outbreak has significantly reduced vaccination rates. DTP3 (diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis) vaccinations have decreased by 53% since 2013 (UN, 26/03/2015; Save the Children, 02/03/2015).

Ebola

On 9 May, the outbreak of Ebola in Liberia was declared over (WHO, 09/05/2015). As of 10 May, 10,604 Ebola cases have been reported in Liberia, including 4,769 deaths (WHO, 12/05/2015). The utility of case numbers has been questioned; statistics are reported to be highly unreliable (CDC, 09/2014; international media, 20/11/2014). No new cases have been confirmed since 27 March (WHO, 29/04/2015).

Over 3% of health workers have been infected by Ebola; 2% of health workers have died of the disease (UNICEF, 29/04/2015).

Containment measures: The Government has threatened to shut down all schools and restaurants that lack WASH facilities (All Africa, 30/04/2015).

The Government reopened its borders with Sierra Leone and Guinea in February, which had been closed since 29 July (UNMEER, 23/02/2015). Thousands of people are now crossing daily through official and unofficial crossing-points, although the Sierra Leonian side of the border remains officially closed. More border points with Guinea are opening officially on both sides, although there are concerns about critical gaps in infection control supplies, particularly on the Guinean side (UNMEER, 15/03/2015; UNMEER; 15/04/2015).

Infection prevention and control challenges persist in border areas, according to a CDC assessment in March, including a lack of safe drinking water at health centres; inadequate WASH facilities; insufficient fuel for incineration; and inconsistent access to and storage and use of personal protective equipment (USAID, 25/03/2015).

Regional Ebola Outbreak

26,724 cumulative Ebola cases have been reported across the region, including 11,065 deaths (WHO, 12/05/2015).

Maternal Health

In the three most affected countries, deliveries in health facilities and the number of assisted births have decreased. Antenatal consultations decreased by between 40% and 43%, while institutional deliveries decreased by 37% to 38% by the end of 2014 compared to 2013 (UN, 26/03/2015, MoH, 07/04/2015).

Measles

As of 1 May, there have been 400 confirmed measles cases across ten counties. 67% of the cases were among children under five. Grand Bassa (160), Margibi (85), and Montserrado (65) reported most cases (OCHA, 01/05/2015).

There are reports of people suspected to have measles abandoning their homes to avoid specimen collection and testing (UNMEER, 27/03/2015).

Different reports suggest measles vaccination coverage has decreased by between 45% and 58% by December 2014, compared to 2013 (UN, 26/03/2015; Save the Children, 02/04/2015). A mass vaccination campaign took place between 8–14 May, targeting around 700,000 children for both measles and polio (UNICEF, 11/03/2015; All Africa, 24/04/2015).

Mental Health

A need for access to mental health and psychosocial support remains, especially for survivors, orphans, and the bereaved (UNMEER, 22/02/2015).

There is only one psychiatrist and there are no psychologists in Liberia. 143 mental health clinicians are meant to be attached to wellness units, but these are yet to be established. There are no long-term treatment facilities for mental health in Liberia. There is one facility with approximately 80 beds for short-term patients (PI, 21/03/2015).

Nutrition

The six counties prioritised by responders for nutrition interventions are the counties that reported the highest Ebola case numbers during the height of the crisis: Montserrado, Margibi, Bong, Nimba, Grand Cape Mount, Lofa (UNICEF, 15/04/2015). 52,000 children are estimated to be at risk of severe acute malnutrition (SAM). There is a need for nutritional support for infants and young children in...
Ebola-affected households (UNMEER, 15/03/2015). However, there is no nutritional status information post-Ebola, since the “no-touch” policy has prevented screening. Relative to trends observed from 1992–2012, malnutrition prevalence is forecast to increase by 2.8–5.3% between 2014 and 2016 (UN Development Group, 11/03/2015). Global acute malnutrition was 6% before the Ebola crisis (PI, 24/03/2015).

WASH

According to a recent assessment of health facilities, 50% do not have a protected year-round source of water, and 20% do not have any protected source on site. 49% do not have any bulk water storage on site. Only 61% of facilities report hand washing facilities at the toilet. 23% have a drainage system and only 45% have a functioning soak pit for liquid waste (WASH Cluster, 10/04/2015).

17% of Liberians have access to improved sanitation. The number drops to 4% in rural areas. 32% don’t have access to improved drinking water source (WASH Cluster, 13/04/2015).

An estimated 2,800 schools need improved access to water (PI, 26/03/2015). According to the Ministry of Education, 55% of schools do not have access to functional water supply and 43% lack access to functional latrines. Only 18% of schools have hand-washing facilities. In schools with functional sanitation facilities, there is an average of 118 boys or 113 girls per latrine (MoE, 26/02/2015). According to an Education Cluster assessment, 31% of schools do not have functional latrines, while schools that do average one latrine for every 123 students. Only 60% of the schools had safe drinking water within 500m, 40% of schools had soap and water for hand washing, and 39% had functional hand-washing facilities (Education Cluster, 17/03/2015).

Education

According to self-reported data, enrolment since schools re-opened in February is at 92% of the 2014 level according to the schools assessed recently by UNICEF (UNICEF, 08/04/2015). However, private sources have suggested the figure is closer to 66% and the World Bank found only 75% of people with primary school-aged children reported that at least one child had returned to school, with over 80% of parents citing a lack of money as the main barrier to education (World Bank, 16/04/2015; PI, 20/04/2015). Many schools are reportedly not in compliance with hygiene protocols (UNICEF, 18/03/2015). Fear of Ebola transmission continues to be of concern nationwide, preventing people from sending their children to school (ACAPS, 04/2015).

Protection

Families of victims and survivors are experiencing physical and verbal abuse and lack access to health facilities, food, and water sources (UNMEER, 30/11/2014; UNMEER, 11/01/2015). Some survivors say marketers are refusing to accept their money for transaction (All Africa, 04/05/2015). Healthcare workers who were in ETUs face similar discriminatory attitudes (Mercy Corps, 02/04/2015).

Best estimates suggest there are currently around 2,000 survivors in Liberia (VOA, 30/03/2015). Many return home to find their possessions have been destroyed to prevent the spread of the virus. Landlords have terminated leases and some people have lost their jobs (VOA, 30/03/2015; All Africa, 04/05/2015). Women and girls, who have poorer access to jobs and education, are especially vulnerable (UNFPA, 03/02/2015).

There have been reports of people being forcibly placed under quarantine by the Government. Recently, a group of young males were placed inside an ETU scheduled for decommission after one died under suspicious circumstances (PI, 20/02/2015).

Child Protection

It is reported that 401 of the 450 rape cases reported in Liberia since the beginning of the EVD outbreak were committed against children 0–17 years (UNICEF, 15/04/2015).

As of 29 April, 3,290 children have lost one or both parents to Ebola since the outbreak began in March 2014 (UNICEF, 29/04/2015).

Social workers have raised fears of child trafficking and exploitation, after some children, who have been placed into foster care and are receiving material support or onetime cash grants, have been claimed by strangers who failed to come forward previously (UNICEF, 31/12/2014).

Updated: 13/05/2015

LIBYA DISPLACEMENT, CIVIL WAR, POLITICAL UNREST

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

14 May: Eight people, including seven children, were killed and 11 wounded when a rocket hit a residential building in Benghazi (Reuters).

4 May: 5,000–7,000 migrants have been reported detained in government facilities (AFP, 04/05/2015).

KEY CONCERNS

- 393,420 IDPs in 35 cities and towns (UNHCR, 14/11/2014). More than 150,000 people have sought refugee abroad (UNHCR 10/10/2014).

- Over 331,000 people are at risk and in need of humanitarian assistance (OCHA,
OVERVIEW

It is estimated that two million people have been affected by the conflict, which has generated shortages of food, fuel, water, medical supplies, and electricity, as well as reduced access to healthcare and public services.

The rapidly deteriorating security situation has caused waves of displacement, particularly in the western outskirts of Tripoli and the eastern city of Benghazi. The prices of food and basic items, such as cooking fuel and wheat flour, have doubled.

Most displaced people are living in schools and host communities are under growing strain. Access is difficult, with blocked roads preventing the delivery of food and medical supplies to areas most affected by conflict.

Political Context

Libya has two rival parliaments and governments, with militias exerting much control on the ground. The political crisis led to worsening armed conflict over 2014. Rival economic policies and a potential struggle over the control of resources is likely to exacerbate the crisis, and worsen the economic situation (Financial Times, 08/12/2014).

The House of Representatives was elected in June. It moved to Tobruk in early August and towards the end of 2014 to the town of Shahat (AFP, 12/11/2014). The Islamist-dominated General National Congress (GNC), which preceded the House of Representatives and had never stood down, reconvened and voted to replace the House on 25 August.

Prime Minister Al Thani’s Government, from the House of Representatives, was sworn in September. In October, the House of Representatives officially endorsed former General Haftar and his Operation Dignity (now known as the Libyan National Army) against Islamist militias. On 6 November, Libya’s Supreme Court ruled the House of Representatives unconstitutional. Certain members of the House of Representatives declared they did not recognise the ruling (UNHCR, 14/11/2014).

Economic Crisis

Oil production, which pays for 95% of government expenditure, has plummeted, leading to a USD 22 billion deficit in 2014. Forecasts for the 2015 deficit are even worse, as a drop in global oil prices compounds the shortfall in production. Unless the political crisis is resolved, these increasing financial constraints could pose serious risks to Libya’s ability to provide essential services (UNICEF, 03/2015).

Peace Talks

UN-brokered talks between the House of Representatives and elected members who boycotted the assembly and had links to the GNC began on 29 September (Reuters, 01/10/2014). A ceasefire agreed by the main warring factions in January has not held (NYT, 18/01/2015).

The House of Representatives suspended participation in talks on 23 February, citing the GNC’s alleged failure to condemn a recent Islamic State (IS) attack (AFP, 11/02/2015; BBC, 23/02/2015). Over 6–8 March, the rival parliaments held their first direct meeting, led by the UN (AFP, 06/03/2015; 11/03/2015). Talks continued in April. According to UN envoy Leon the current fighting is intended to hamper the talks. Libyan parties are currently reviewing a UN-proposed draft agreement (UN, 29/04/2015).

Security Context

The surge in violence since July 2014 has affected more than two million people (UN, 03/09/2014). The rival governments have been carrying out tit-for-tat airstrikes in east and west Libya, respectively (Libya Herald, 01/04/2015). Since 2015, over 1,100 violent deaths have been reported (ACLED, 18/05/2015). In 2014, there were 2,383 reported fatalities from battles and remote violence (ACLED, 15/01/2015).

An abundance of weapons from the NATO-backed uprising against Gaddafi are sustaining warring factions (AFP, 14/07/2014). The United Nations Stabilization Mission for Libya (UNSMIL) left the country in mid-July 2014.

Main Stakeholders

Libya Dawn

The Libyan Shield brigades, tied to the city of Misrata, are allied to Islamist political forces, as are the Shura Council of Benghazi Revolutionaries (SCBR), a Benghazi-based alliance including Ansar al Sharia, Libya Shield units and other armed groups. Together with insurgents from Tripoli and other towns including al Zawiya and Gheryan, these groups make up Libya Dawn.

Some factions are wary of the threat of IS to regional and local interests; others are willing to cooperate with IS to defeat Haftar and the Libyan National Army (ACLED, 03/2015).

Libyan National Army

Former General Khalifa Haftar launched Operation Dignity in May 2014, aiming to break the strongholds of Islamist forces. Operation Dignity and its supporters are now called the Libyan National Army (LNA), and Haftar is army chief (ICG, 05/01/2014; Middle East Eye, 24/02/2015). Support comes from the Al Qa’a’ and Al Sawai’q brigades, allied with the city of Zintan, and fighters from the Warshefana region west of Tripoli, as well as units of Libya’s regular armed forces. The House of Representatives has repeatedly appealed to the international community for more weapons (AFP, 05/01/2014).

Islamic State and Allies

The Islamic Youth Shura Council has declared an Islamic emirate in the eastern city of...
Derna and pledged allegiance to Islamic State (Al Arabiya, 06/10/2014). The Battar Brigade, based in Derna, pledges allegiance to Islamic State. The group is not affiliated with either of the rival governments and has warned all governments and militia groups not to interfere with its activities.

IS has targeted minorities, executing some 60 Christians on two occasions. Over April, IS was accused of attacks on three embassies.

Regional Involvement

Egypt and the United Arab Emirates have bombed Islamist militia positions near Tripoli’s airport, according to the United States (AFP, 08/10/2014). In October 2014, Prime Minister Al Thani announced that Egypt would help to train the Libyan army.

Islamist fighters pushed out of Mali are said to be hiding in Libya’s south. Experts see links between these groups and Islamist militias in northern and eastern Libya (AFP, 26/10/2014). IS has set up training camps in eastern Libya, according to US officials (BBC, 04/12/2014).

Palestinian, Sudanese, and Syrian nationals have been banned from entering Libya (Libya Herald, 05/01/2015). Tuareg from Mali and, reportedly, Tebu from Chad, have joined their respective Libyan tribe members in fighting over Ubari (Al Jazeera, 05/12/2014).

Conflict Developments

Tripoli and Western Libya

Tripoli is largely under the control of Libya Dawn. On 20 March, the LNA announced an assault to recapture Tripoli (Reuters, 23/03/2015). On 15 April, as peace talks were starting, forces loyal to the HoR carried out airstrikes on Mitiga airport and other targets in western Libya (Reuters, 15/04/2015). On 17 April, 21 people died and 24 were wounded in fighting in Tajoura, 30km east of Tripoli, as pro-HoR forces launched a failed attempt to retake Tripoli from Libya Dawn (AFP, 18/04/2015).

On 21 April, a bomb attack struck the Spanish embassy without causing any casualties. According to local officials, the attack was perpetrated by IS. On 12 April, gunmen reportedly affiliated with IS attacked the South Korean embassy, killing two people and wounding another. On the same day, a bomb exploded outside the Moroccan embassy, causing no casualties (International Business Times, 12/04/2015; 21/04/2015; AFP, 13/04/2015). On 5 April, a suicide attack claimed by IS killed four people and reportedly wounded 21 in Misrata (AFP, 05/04/2015).

Sirte: Renewed clashes between Libya Dawn-affiliated Misrata militants and IS fighters began on 18 April (Libya Herald, 23/04/2015). On 14 May, eight people, including seven children, were killed, and 11 wounded when a rocket hit a residential building. On 12 May, four children were killed by a mortar round (Reuters, 14/05/2015). As of 13 May, clashes are ongoing (Libya Herald, 13/05/2015). In early March, it was reported that IS, backed by local militias and militias from Misrata, controls the city of Sirte (NYT, 10/03/2015). The GNC has sent forces from Misrata and from bases near oil ports to recapture Sirte; fighting is ongoing (Reuters, 25/03/2015; 28/03/2015). On 25 March, five people were killed in a suicide bombing in Sirte (UNSMIL, 25/03/2015).

On 1 April, Zintan airport was the target of airstrikes, reportedly by Libya Dawn. Unconfirmed reports state that nearby Rujiban was also hit (Libya Herald, 01/04/2015).

Benghazi and Eastern Libya

Operation Dignity began an offensive on Benghazi in October; SCBR had apparently been in control since mid-July (UNSMIL, 04/09/2014). Between mid-October and January, 600 people were killed due to fighting in the city, according to medical staff (Reuters, 18/01/2015). In early January, the Libyan National Army claimed to have almost full control of Benghazi’s Laithi district, which had been a key Ansar Al Sharia stronghold (Libya Herald, 06/01/2015). On 6 February, the LNA claimed to have taken control of central Benghazi’s port area as well as taken part of the neighbouring Suq Al Hout district (Libya Herald, 06/01/2015).

Oilfields and Terminals

In December, Libya Dawn announced a campaign for the control of oilfields and terminals (The Telegraph, 14/12/2014). The Libyan national oil company has declared 11 oilfields non-operational because of theft, looting, sabotage, and destruction by unidentified armed groups (NYT, 05/03/2015). The withdrawal of troops from Ras Lanuf and As Sidr could mean that oil terminals will reopen soon (The Guardian, 01/04/2015).

Derna

In February, Egypt carried out airstrikes on the city of Derna, IS’s stronghold in Libya, (Reuters, 23/02/2015). Arms groups claiming affiliation to IS then carried out twin suicide attacks in Al Gubba, near Derna, killing at least 44 people, including six Egyptians, and injuring dozens more (HRW, 24/02/2015, The Daily Star, 24/02/2015). IS stated the strikes were in retaliation for Egyptian airstrikes (BBC, 23/02/2015).

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Access

Indiscriminate fighting has led to restrictions of movement for people trying to flee conflict areas. Violence and checkpoints along the route to Zawia from Tripoli are preventing people from reaching the Tunisian border. The Salloum border crossing between Libya and Egypt has been closed indefinitely (Libya Herald, 21/01/2015).
Access to areas most affected by conflict is difficult. Armed groups lack knowledge of humanitarian organisations and restrict their access. Most humanitarian agencies have left. The national agency tasked with leading the humanitarian response evaluates its own response capacity as almost non-existent (IRIN 07/08/2014).

Security Incidents Involving Aid Workers

The ICRC suspended work in the country after an ICRC staff member was assassinated in Sirte in June 2014 (UN Security Council, 05/09/2014).

Infrastructure

Significant damage and destruction has been reported to public installations in Tripoli’s southern and western suburbs (UN Security Council, 05/09/2014). In October, power outages were reported in Tripoli (IRIN, 01/10/2014). Shortages of diesel have been reported (UNHCR, 14/11/2014).

Displacement

IDPs

IDPs’ basic needs for shelter, food, and medical services remain grossly unmet. Their physical security has been seriously threatened by indiscriminate shelling, attacks on IDP camps and sieges. There is serious concern for tens of thousands of displaced migrants who are trapped in Libya and particularly vulnerable (IDMC, 30/03/2015).

As of 14 November, there are 393,420 IDPs in 35 cities and towns in Libya (UNHCR, 14/11/2014), including approximately 290,000 women and children (UNICEF, 03/2015). Additionally, at least 56,544 IDPs are still displaced since the 2011 conflict (IDMC, 23/09/2014).

269,000 IDPs are in and around Tripoli (IDMC, 03/2015). Near Tripoli, NGOs and the local council estimate some 83,270 people are living in settlements, schools and abandoned buildings (UNHCR, 16/01/2015).

In Benghazi, the local council is reporting around 90,000 people unable to return home. The displacement has been centred around Benghazi, Derna, and near the Gulf of Sidra, in Ben Jawad and Ras Lanuf (UNHCR, 16/01/2015; IDMC 03/2015).

Around Ubari, local crisis committees in the southeast confirm 18,492 people from Ubari are displaced in six towns: Sabha, Wadi Shati, Jufra, Ghat, Murzuq, and Lewenat (UNHCR, 16/01/2015; IDMC, 03/2015). Services have been severely disrupted by fighting: Schools, hospitals and markets are completely inaccessible (UNHCR, 16/01/2015).

In the west, civilian groups report 38,640 people have been displaced by fighting in Kikla, including many women and children (UNHCR, 14/11/2014). 100,000 people have been displaced from the area around Warshefana since mid-September (UNHCR, 10/10/2014).

As of early October, most displaced people were living with local families (UNHCR, 10/10/2014). However, many IDPs are now reported to be living in schools. Some local councils have stopped registering new arrivals due to limited response capacity.

According to UNSMIL, the Benghazi Local Council has registered some 34,000 IDPs in need of basic assistance (UNHCR, 14/11/2014). Al Marj, near Benghazi, has had to close its schools to accommodate people unable to stay with host families. Al Bayda and Tobruk are also under pressure. Schools in Tobruk will be closed so they can host IDPs.

An estimated 35,000 of Tawerghan IDPs have been sheltering in temporary camps in Tripoli and Benghazi since 2011. No aid has been provided to the Tawergha camps since February 2014. While 10,000 Tawergha who had fled Tripoli have mostly returned, in the east, where the community is estimated to be 18,000-strong, many families are still displaced (IRIN, 10/12/2014). Some 2,500 Tawergha left their camp in Benghazi because of fighting and were staying in parks, schools and parking lots in and around the town of Ajdabiya, many with only thin plastic sheets for shelter (UNHCR, 14/11/2014).

Migrants, Refugees and Asylum-seekers in Libya

Prior to the crisis, Libya was supporting a growing population of refugees and asylum seekers using the country as an exit point to Europe. At end December 2014, 36,984 refugees were in Libya (OCHA, 28/12/2014). In addition, IOM estimated at least 150,000 migrant workers, 5,000 of whom might be vulnerable and in need of evacuation assistance, health services, and psychosocial support (IOM, 08/01/2015).

Third-country nationals face extreme difficulties leaving the country as passage through Libya’s borders with Egypt and Tunisia is restricted (IOM, 14/09/2014). Migrants continue to embark on unseaworthy vessels to reach Italy aboard unseaworthy vessels. More than 36,000 people have tried to cross the Mediterranean in 2015, most of them using Libya as their starting point, and nearly 1,800 are feared to have died in the attempt (Reuters, 22/04/2015). The Libyan Naval Coast Guard intercept many boats, which has increased the number of migrants in need of urgent assistance in Libyan ports (IOM, 12/05/2015). Reportedly, the coastguard Migrants of the city of Zuwara, Nuqat al Kams governorate, disposes of only one boat to rescue migrants at sea (AFP, 07/05/2015). Over 2014, 170,000 migrants departed from Libya and arrived in Italy. An estimated 3,200 people died crossing the sea (IOM, 31/03/2015).

Some 20,000 Egyptians, many of them from Sirte, have fled Libya since 15 February (AP, 25/02/2015).

Food Security

Insecurity is affecting the food supply chain, with some estimates indicating a substantial decline in food imports into eastern Libya since May. Food prices in Tripoli remain volatile, reducing the purchasing power of the poorest households (WFP, 18/12/2014). The HoR has reported it had started tapping into the country’s strategic wheat reserves to ensure bread supplies. Some bakeries in Tripoli and Benghazi have closed or produce less (Reuters, 04/02/2015).

Warehouses (both public and private) are situated in conflict areas, and fuel shortages are aggravating the situation.

Livelihoods
People in Benghazi and Tripoli specifically, and in other cities in general, have been facing regular electricity cuts, plus interruptions to the internet and wider communications. In Tripoli, fuel shortages and water cuts have affected livelihoods (IFRC, 12/08/2014).

Health and Nutrition

Large numbers of expatriate medical personnel have left Libya, and such staff make up 80% of all medical personnel, according to the Ministry of Health.

Access to health services has become a major concern mainly in Benghazi. Ongoing fighting has led to restrictions of movement for people and health workers in the conflict areas (WHO, 24/11/2014).

The hospitals that remain operating in Tripoli and Benghazi have been overstretched dealing with casualties. Many national medical personnel have not been able to work due to insecurity. Tripoli hospitals have been hit by shelling, leading to suspension of services. Ambulances have been stolen. In Warshefana, fighting has disrupted health services (ICRC, 17/09/2014).

In August and September, heavy fighting damaged storage facilities, and led to shortages in medical supplies, and problems accessing warehouses in a number of towns (UNSMIL, 04/09/2014; IOM, 12/08/2014; IFRC, 12/08/2014; ICRC, 17/09/2014).

WASH

In the Zawiya detention centre for migrants, only five showers are available for the more than 400 inmates (Deutsche Welle, 28/04/2015).

Protection

Abductions, looting, burning of homes and other acts of revenge have all been frequently reported (UN Security Council, 05/09/2014). With some exceptions, civilians have not been given the chance to evacuate before hostilities commenced and severe fighting has taken place in and around houses and other places of refuge (UNSMIL, 04/09/2014).

Human rights defenders and justice sector officials are targeted, intimidated, and frequently attacked (UNSMIL/OHCHR, 25/03/2015). In Benghazi and nearby Derna, there were at least 250 politically motivated killings in 2014 (HRW, 24/09/2014). Armed militias controlling Derna are reported to have carried out summary executions, public floggings, and other violent abuse (HRW, 27/11/2014).

Abduction and Detention

According to estimates by the European Commission, nearly one million people are waiting in Libya to make their trip to Europe. Third-country refugees and asylum-seekers, including unaccompanied children, face arbitrary arrest and indefinite detention for migration control purposes by both state and non-state actors. Torture and ill-treatment have also been reported (AI, 30/09/2014; Reuters, 22/04/2015).

As of May, 5,000–7,000 people were reported to be detained mainly in the Tripoli region and in Misrata (AFP, 04/05/2015). Currently, there are 12 government-run detention centres and 21 operated by armed militias (PI, 05/2015).

On 19 April, IS released a video showing the beheading of 12 Ethiopian Christians and the execution of 16 more Ethiopian Christians by gunshot (AFP, 19/04/2015).

On 9 March, nine foreign oil workers were reportedly kidnapped by IS, during an attack on Al Ghani oil field in which several guards were killed (BBC, 09/03/2015).

In mid-January, a group claiming affiliation with IS claimed to have 21 Coptic Egyptians seized from various places in Tripoli province (Libya Herald, 14/01/2015). Militants pledging allegiance to IS on 15 February beheaded 21 Coptic Christians, 20 of them Egyptian (HRW, 24/02/2015).

In addition to the detention of fighters or suspected fighters, dozens of civilians remain missing (UNSMIL, 04/09/2014).

Mines and ERW

Incorrectly armed fuses or faulty ammunition have resulted in large quantities of unexploded ordnance in conflict areas (UNSMIL, 04/09/2014). According to Islamist militias, approximately 600 anti-personnel mines have been cleared since they seized Tripoli airport on 24 August (HRW, 05/11/2014).

Updated: 15/05/2015

MALAWI

FLOODS

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

28 April: 560 cases of cholera, including eight deaths, have been confirmed. The case fatality rate at 1.4% is well above the regional average of 0.8% (OCHA).

23 April: Around 400 Malawian refugees have returned from South Africa and 3,200 are awaiting repatriation, following a wave of xenophobic attacks in the country (Government/UN).

KEY CONCERNS

- 146,500 people remain displaced in 192 displacement sites as a result of January floods (IOM/Government, 29/04/2015).
- 616,000 people affected by floods and heavy rainfalls are in Crisis (IPC Phase 3). Dry conditions since mid-February are expected to reduce the 2015 harvest by 30-40% compared to 2014 (WFP, 20/04/2015; 23/03/2015).
Humanitarian Context and Needs

Disasters: Floods

Heavy rains in January and February have led to severe flooding across Malawi. Around 638,000 people have been affected overall, 104 have died and 645 have been injured. Floods have caused great damage to crops, livestock, food stocks, and infrastructure, with the southern districts of Nsanje, Chikwawa, Phalombe, and Zomba most affected (Government/UN, 02/03/2015; 11/02/2015).

Displacement

Flood-affected IDPs

As of 29 April, 147,500 people remained displaced in 192 open sites. 76% have been displaced within their areas of origin. 42% of IDPs are in 31 sites in Nsanje, and 21% in 19 sites in Chikwawa. NFIs, shelter, WASH and health needs persist (IOM/Government, 29/04/2015).

People displaced by flooding continue to return to their places of origin. Shelter support, especially in Nsanje, are priorities for returnees (Government/UN, 07/04/2015; 02/03/2015).

Returnees

As of 23 April, around 400 Malawian refugees had returned from South Africa and 3,200 had been registered in displacement sites awaiting repatriation, following a wave of xenophobic attacks in the country (Government/UN, 23/04/2015).

Refugees

At August 2014, there were 19,923 refugees and asylum seekers in Malawi, mostly from DRC, Burundi and Rwanda, residing in Dzaleka camp in Dowa district in central Malawi or among host communities (UNHCR, 30/08/2014).

Food Security

616,000 people in 17 districts affected by floods and heavy rainfalls are in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) due to a reduction or total loss of livelihoods, and will need assistance until at least July and possibly for the whole consumption season (FEWSNET 20/04/2015; WFP, 10/04/2015).

53 IDP sites report no access to a market; 29 report having difficulties accessing food, including through distributions (IOM/Government, 29/04/2015).

Agricultural Outlook

Around 64,000 hectares of land was submerged in the floods, including 42,000 hectares of cropland, affecting 116,000 farmers (Government/UN, 03/02/2015).

Dry conditions in the highly productive northern and central regions since mid-February have reportedly caused some wilting and drying of crops. Several areas have received less than 50% of their normal rainfall accumulation (UNICEF, 08/04/2015; FEWSNET, 17/04/2015). Due to the combined impact of floods and drought, the 2015 harvest is expected to be 30-40% lower than last year. Current estimates indicate that maize production is 28% lower than 2014, and staple food prices have significantly increased as a result of these conditions. Food security will likely worsen in affected areas during the lean season (WFP, 04/05/2015; 10/04/2015).

Health and Nutrition

Cholera: As of 28 April, 560 cases of cholera, including eight deaths, have been confirmed since the outbreak began mid-February, mostly in Nsanje. The case fatality rate is at 1.4%, above the regional average of 0.8% (OCHA, 28/04/2015). The outbreak was linked to a cholera outbreak in Mozambique (UNICEF, 08/04/2015).

Health facilities and medical supplies have been significantly damaged by floods. In IDP camps, diarrhoea and malaria continue to be reported as the most prevalent health problems. Long distances to health facilities (>3km) is a challenge for more than half of IDP sites (IOM/Government, 29/04/2015).

Nutrition

There has been a significant increase in the number of malnourished children as a result of the floods and poor harvests. Only 35 IDP sites report availability of supplementary feeding for pregnant and lactating women, while 62% report availability for children (IOM/Government, 29/04/2015; Government/UN, 08/03/2015).

25,313 children aged 6–59 months were suffering from SAM as of July (Government/UN, 08/03/2015; UNICEF, 27/09/2014).

WASH

Water sources been damaged or contaminated, and pit latrines damaged, during the January floods (Government/UN, 03/02/2015). By end April, 35% of IDP sites report they still have poor quality of drinking water, while 11% report having less than 15L of water per person per day. WASH needs are greatest in Chikwawa and Nsanje, where the current sanitation ratio is one drop hole for 170 people (IOM/Government, 29/04/2015).

WASH activities are all the more important as cholera cases continue to arise (Government/UN, 13/03/2015).

Shelter and NFIs

Shelter and NFIs remain primary needs among populations in IDP sites. 76% of IDP sites are spontaneous; around 430 families in Chapinga camp in Nsanje are living without a
single tent (IOM/Government, 29/04/2015; Government/UN, 07/04/2015). On the east bank in Nsanje, many are waiting to be allocated land to rebuild their homes, but lack the resources to build them (Government/UN, 07/04/2015).

Education

Education has been affected by displacement, lack of school materials, and damaged classrooms, in particular in Nsanje and Phalombe (UNICEF, 14/04/2015). 415 schools and 350,000 students have been affected, including 191 schools still used as camps (IOM/Government, 29/04/2015). School enrolment for boys in Nsanje has reportedly dropped by 32% (UNICEF, 01/04/2015).

Protection

23 of the 192 remaining open IDP sites do not have separate bathing areas for male and female IDPs, which may raise protection issues (IOM/Government, 29/04/2015).

Reports of rape and cross-border trafficking between Malawi and Mozambique are a concern (Government/UN, 07/04/2015).

Updated: 13/05/2015

MALI CONFLICT, FOOD INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT

- An estimated 241,000 people are severely food insecure (IPC Phase 3 and 4) and 2.4 million people are in IPC Phase 2 (Stressed) (Cadre Harmonisé, 22/03/2015).
- 690,000 million people are in need of health assistance and 840,000 are in need of WASH (OCHA, 31/01/2015).

Political Context

The state lost control of the north of the country in 2012, after Tuareg groups from the northern region known as Azawad began a campaign for greater autonomy, and a separate coup d’état further destabilised the country. However, the fragile alliance between Tuareg and Islamists was quickly broken, and Islamists took control of key northern cities. Civilian rule was re-established in mid-2013, with the aid of French and African Union troops, and a UN mission, MINUSMA, was set up, but Mali continues to face security and political challenges. The truce in the north remains fragile, and key government institutions need strengthening. Limited access to basic social services and the poor capacity of public administration are key drivers of the crisis.

In June 2014, after several bouts of violence, the Government signed the Algiers Declaration with the Azawad Movement Coalition (AMC) – comprising the National Movement for the Liberation of Azawad (MNLA), the High Council for the Unity of Azawad (HCUA), and the Arab Movement of Azawad (MAA). The coalition has agreed to engage with the Government on a path of dialogue (AFP, 01/09/2014).

The Algiers peace agreement was signed by the Government and some armed groups in March 2015 (OCHA, 17/03/2015; international media, 16/03/2015). Scores of people protested in Kidal against the accord (international media, 01/03/2015; OCHA, 02/03/2015). On 26 April, the AMC announced they will sign the accord on 15 May (local media, 26/04/2015). However, recent clashes between pro-government armed group GATIA and government forces, and the AMC have put this at risk (international media, 28/04/2015; 30/04/2015).

Insecurity in the north has held up the revision of voter rolls, delaying local and regional elections that were scheduled for April (international media, 07/03/2015).

Security Context

Attacks by and clashes between rival armed groups, including separatist Tuareg movements, government forces and Islamist militias, continue to hamper security in the country. In addition to the northern provinces of Kidal, Gao, and Timbuktu, security incidents have been reported in the southern regions of Mopti and Segou since January, and in Bamako in March. Landmines and improvised explosive devices (IED) are a particular threat. Attacks on MINUSMA vehicles, camps, and peacekeepers have spiked since mid-August 2014 (AFP, 21/09/2014). It often remains unclear who is responsible for the attacks.

The Movement for Unity and Jihad in West Africa (MUJAO), which split from Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) in 2011, and Ansar Dine, are among the main Islamist groups active in northern Mali, carrying out attacks on pro-government and international forces.
International Presence

The stability of the Sahel region relies on the presence of foreign troops. In addition to Malian forces, there are French forces, MINUSMA, and the EU military training mission (EUTM), mainly in Bamako (53% of forces) and in northern cities such as Kidal, Gao, Timbuktu, and Menaka (28%) (OCHA, 31/05/2014). MINUSMA’s mandate expires on 30 June 2015. 34 peacekeepers have died since the start of the UN mission in July 2013 (UNSC, 06/01/2015; international media, 17/01/2015).

On 1 August 2014, France deployed a 3,000-strong counterterrorism operation across the Sahel region. Based in Chad, Operation Barkhane is active in Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, and Niger (Local Media, 01/08/2014).

Security Incidents

Since late April, the security situation is deteriorating as clashes between government forces and separatist Tuareg groups have increased. On 11 May, a Malian army supply convoy was ambushed on the road from Goundam to Timbuktu, close to Tintelout. Nine were killed and 14 injured. The road is now only open to army vehicles (local media, 12/05/2015). On 5 May, the AMC carried out an attack on Tenenkou, Mopti, in which one Malian soldier and ten AMC militants died. Several militants were injured (local media, 05/05/2015). On 1 May, militants stormed Bintagoungou town, Timbuktu region. One person was killed, six others taken hostage, and several shops were raided. The attack was blamed on the AMC (international media, 01/05/2015).

The first conflict between AMC and armed forces in 2015 occurred on 29 April, in Lere, Timbuktu. Ten militants and nine soldiers died; more than 20 others were injured and six soldiers were taken hostage (international media, 30/04/2015). On the same day, unidentified militants opened fire on government forces in Goundam, Timbuktu, killing at least two soldiers and a child. On 28 April, there were several skirmishes between the Malian army and armed groups. On 27 April, pro-government Tuareg group Gatia seized the town of Menaka, Timbuktu region, which had been under AMC control (international media, 28/04/2015).

At least seven attacks on MINUSMA were reported in April, some claimed by AMC, others by Islamist groups. Some attacks were carried out by unidentified groups. Several peacekeepers and UN-contracted drivers were killed, as well as at least four civilians. Most attacks were carried out in Gao, but some in Timbuktu and Kidal regions. On 10 May, two peacekeepers were injured after their vehicle hit a mine near Tenenkou, Mopti (UN, 11/05/2015). On 6 May, the MINUSMA camp in Kidal was attacked by mortars. No casualties or damage was reported (local media, 06/05/2015).

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Access

Deterioration of the security situation and hostilities between parties of the conflict in 2015 continue to hamper humanitarian access in the north of Mali. All transportation companies have suspended activities on the route between Sevare (Mopti region) and Gao because of the absence of escorts by security forces and increased security risks, threatening the rupture of supplies to the region and displacement to the south (local media, 27/04/2015).

Since the beginning of 2015, OCHA has recorded 31 access constraints, compared to 22 in the whole of 2014. 50% of constraints were related to violence against humanitarian personnel, assets or facilities, and 50% were linked to the conduct of hostilities or military operations. At least 14 humanitarian organisations have had to temporarily suspend activities or relocate staff between February and April (OCHA, 04/05/2015).

Humanitarian air services are disrupted in Kidal region, as Kidal airstrip still needs repair (OCHA, 04/05/2015).

Displacement

IDPs

As of December 2014, 61,621 people were internally displaced as a consequence of the 2012 conflict and continued insecurity, a decrease from 86,000 reported in October. 53% are women and 56% are children under 18. About half reside in northern Mali, with 11,990 in Kidal, 10,348 in Timbuktu and 7,245 in Gao. In the south, 14,386 IDPs were identified in Bamako, and 10,456 in Koulikoro. Mopti and Segou regions also host several thousand IDPs (Government, USAID, IOM, 06/04/2015).

IDPs in Bamako live under precarious conditions. Most are affected by poverty and food insecurity and have limited access to basic social services and livelihood opportunities (OCHA, 16/04/2015).

Refugees in Mali

As of 31 July 2014, Mali hosts over 14,525 refugees from countries including Mauritania (12,900) and Côte d’Ivoire (1,110) (OCHA, 16/09/2014). Planning figures for January 2015 from UNHCR do not indicate a large change in the number of refugees (UNHCR, 01/12/2014).

Returnees

In December 2014, 394,655 returnees were registered in Mali; most in Timbuktu, followed by Islamist groups. Some attacks were carried out by unidentified armed groups. Several peacekeepers and UN-contracted drivers were killed, as well as at least four civilians. Most attacks were carried out in Gao, but some in Timbuktu and Kidal regions. On 10 May, two peacekeepers were injured after their vehicle hit a mine near Tenenkou, Mopti (UN, 11/05/2015). On 6 May, the MINUSMA camp in Kidal was attacked by mortars. No casualties or damage was reported (local media, 06/05/2015).

As of March, 52,566 Malian refugees are registered in Mbera camp, Mauritania, and 48,752 in Niger as of April (UNHCR, 31/03/2015; 30/04/2015). Burkina Faso hosts 33,125 Malian refugees as of 31 March (UNHCR, 31/03/2015).
Food Security

As of end of March, the food security situation is generally acceptable across the country. An estimated 240,880 people are in Crisis food security (IPC Phase 3), most in Timbuktu, Mopti, and Gao. In Timbuktu and Gao, some 7,000 people are in Phase 4, Emergency (Cadre Harmonisé, 22/03/2015). The situation in Kidal has improved thanks to food security programmes. 2.4 million people are in Phase 2, Stressed food security (Cadre Harmonisé, 22/03/2015).

The total number of people in IPC Phase 3 and above is projected to increase to more than 400,000 from April to August 2015 (Cadre Harmonisé, 22/03/2015). Poor households’ prolonged dependence on markets in Timbuktu and Gao is leading to increased use of coping strategies such as borrowing and decreasing food expenditure. They will face Crisis food insecurity (IPC Phase 3) as of July (FEWSNET, 01/04/2015; OCHA, 28/04/2015).

169 communes in Gao, Timbuktu, Mopti, and Kidal have insufficient forage, leading to early transhumance and unusual herd movements to areas already under pressure, which could lead to tensions. Pastoral populations are losing their principle source of income and food, risking a deterioration of the food security and nutritional situation (Food Security Cluster, 03/05/2015).

Market prices in Segou and Sikasso have increased. Mopti and Gao regions observed some declining prices, and in Bamako and Kayes market prices have remained stable (international organisation, 21/04/2015). Insecurity is negatively affecting the functioning of markets and limiting household access to markets. Otherwise, markets are generally well supplied with cereals and prices are more or less stable (WFP, 28/02/2015). The impact of staple food prices was low overall between January and March 2015, but high in Timbuktu region (WFP, 29/04/2015).

Sahel Food Crisis: Regional Overview

Early 2015, the number of people suffering from food insecurity in the Sahel is estimated at 20.4 million and least 2.6 million have crossed the emergency threshold and require urgent food assistance (OCHA, 02/04/2015). In 2014, food insecurity rose dramatically to 24.7 million food insecure people, compared to 2013 when 11.3 million people had inadequate food (OCHA, 03/02/2015).

Health and Nutrition

690,000 people are estimated to be in need of health assistance (OCHA, 31/01/2015). High vigilance is observed in southern Mali for meningitis cases due to climatic conditions (ACMAD, 02/04/2015).

In Kidal, the reference health centre is facing difficulties since the supporting international organisation left in December 2014. There is a lack of medication, qualified personnel, and means for emergency evacuation. People in remote villages cannot access health services (local media, 21/04/2015).

As of 10 February, 181,000 children suffer from severe acute malnutrition (SAM), and 534,000 suffer from moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) (OCHA, 04/05/2015). SAM rates are highest in Mopti (3.7%), Segou (3.4%) and Koulikoro (2.7%). MAM rates are highest in the northern provinces (FEWSNET, WFP, FAO, 28/02/2015; ACF, 31/12/2014).

In Gao region, a SMART survey showed 11.3% GAM and 2.3% SAM. Malnutrition is more severe in urban than in rural areas. Priority districts are Gao and Bourem, with 2.9% and 2.1% SAM, respectively (UNICEF, 31/03/2015; OCHA, 16/04/2015).

In Kidal, malnutrition rates have been stable since 2011, with 5.7% GAM and 1.0% SAM (UNICEF, 31/03/2015).

WASH

About 840,000 people are in need of WASH assistance, the majority of whom live in the northern regions of Gao, Kidal, Timbuktu, Mopti, and Segou, and are IDPs, returnees, and host families without access to safe drinking water (OCHA, 15/01/2015).

Shelter and NFIs

Some 378,000 people are in need of NFIs and 137,000 in need of shelter. Those of concern are mainly IDPs and returnees (OCHA, 15/01/2015).

Education

In early May, following fighting in Tenenkou and Youwarou, Mopti region, all 147 schools were closed, affecting 19,000 students and 400 teachers. 26 schools had been closed in these areas before then (UNICEF, 07/05/2015).

Community initiatives led to the reopening of 27 out of 62 schools in Kidal, providing access to education for 1,800 students. In Kereri town, Mopti, and Nampalari, Segou, 1,100 students remain affected by the closure of schools since January, following attacks. Teachers are absent due to insecurity. 193,000 children in 57 communes remain out of school because of insecurity (OCHA, 16/04/2015).

Only 76% of schools in the north that were functional before the crisis were functional as of December 2014. Only 23% of children in school before the crisis are currently enrolled. As of March 2015, 334 schools remain closed in the regions of Gao, Kidal, Mopti, Timbuktu, and Segou (UNICEF, 05/03/2015). 79% of schools in Kidal are not functioning (OCHA, 31/01/2015).

Protection

About 860,000 people are in need of protection, including 313,000 non-displaced in the north (OCHA, 31/01/2015). Explosive remnants of war (ERW) caused 101 casualties from 2012 to June 2014 (OCHA, 30/06/2014).

Three armed groups (Ansar Dine, MNLA and MUJAO) are reportedly recruiting and using children, and are listed for rape and other forms of sexual violence. According to the International Medical Corps, 75% of cases of gender-based violence are not reported by
Of those who do report, only 5% refer to legal structures (OCHA, 16/04/2015).

For IDPs living in Bamako, destruction or loss of official documents, such as birth certificates, is a major challenge (OCHA, 16/04/2015).

Updated: 13/05/2015

MAURITANIA FOOD INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

31 March: 723,000 are in IPC Phase 2 (Stressed) and an additional 264,000 people are in IPC Phases 3-5 (Crisis – Famine). The situation is projected to worsen June-August (WFP/FAO).

KEY CONCERNS
- 723,000 are in IPC Phase 2 (Stressed) and an additional 264,000 people are in IPC Phases 3-5 (Crisis – Famine). The situation is projected to worsen June-August (WFP/FAO).
- 24,100 children suffer from severe acute malnutrition (OCHA, 02/2015)

Political Context

The credibility of the Government continues to be questioned by much of the northern population, who claim they are marginalised in the provision of basic services.

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Displacement

Malian Refugees

Mauritania hosts almost 52,566 Malian refugees as of April 2015 (OCHA, 04/2015). Almost all live in Mbera camp, a remote desert location on the border that has significant security challenges, and where food insecurity and malnutrition are high. According to UNHCR, 80% of camp residents are women and children, and many have been in the camp for two years, resulting in overlapping emergency and medium-term needs (UNHCR, 04/2015).

Security problems and inaccessibility to areas of northern Mali make it difficult to obtain return figures.

Food Security

As of 31 March, 723,000 were in IPC Phase 2 (Stressed) and an additional 264,000 people were in IPC Phases 3-5 (Crisis – Famine). The projected numbers are 851,000 and 465,000 people affected, respectively, during June to August (WFP/FAO, 31/03/2015). Poor households in affected areas of the Senegal River Valley (near the border between Mauritania and Senegal) and western agro-pastoral zones (southwestern Mauritania) will be particularly vulnerable, a result of declines in seasonal income and food consumption gaps (FEWSNET, 19/03/2015).

In areas of Mauritania that experienced poor rainfall last year, 2014/15 crop production was between 30 and 80 percent below average, causing household food stocks to deplete earlier than normal and lengthening the period when households depend on market purchases to meet their food needs. Below-average incomes from crop sales and reduced milk availability are also limiting food access. To cope, households are selling additional livestock, increasing debt levels, engaging in increased levels of wage labour, migration, fishing, and forestry product sales, and reducing the quantity and quality of their meals (FEWSNET, 04/05/2015).

Erratic rains have affected pasture regeneration and level of water points in several pastoral areas, particularly in Hodh el Chargui, Hodh el Gharbi, Gorgol, Brakna and Tagant regions (WFP, Government of Mauritania, 28/04/2015). Declining prices for sheep and cattle will affect poor pastoral households between April and May (FEWSNET, 03/2015).

The food situation for livestock is currently difficult because of the low availability of pasture and water in the southeast of Mauritania (WFP/FAO, 31/03/2015).

Without additional, well-targeted emergency assistance, more than 600,000 households could face Crisis (Phase 3) acute food insecurity by June. (FEWSNET, 18/11/2014; 03/2015).

Food Security in the Sahel Region

20.4 million people in the Sahel (Burkina Faso, north Cameroon, Chad, the Gambia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, north Nigeria, and Senegal) are expected to suffer from food insecurity in 2015 (OCHA, 10/02/2015). In 2014, food insecurity rose dramatically to 24.7 million food insecure people, compared to 2013, when 11.3 million people had inadequate food (OCHA, 03/02/2014).

Health and Nutrition

Nutrition

91,300 children are acutely malnourished as of February 2015, of which 24,100 children suffer from severe acute malnutrition (OCHA, 02/2015).

Results of an August survey indicate that the national GAM rate had decreased from 13.1% to 9.8%, although Guidimakha region is reported to have GAM of 16%, exceeding the emergency threshold. GAM is over 10% in Gorgol, Assaba, Tagant, Hodh El Chargui, and Hodh El Gharbi (UNICEF, 10/2014).

A nutrition survey carried out in Mbera camp in November 2014 showed a significant decrease in both global acute malnutrition (from 11.8% to 9.9%) and severe acute malnutrition (1.4% to 0.8%) (UNICEF, 12/2014).

Reviewed: 13/05/2015
NIGER FOOD INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

7 May: A Boko Haram attack on a village in Dosso region killed five (Reuters).

30 April–7 May: Niger authorities ordered populations out of the Lake Chad islands in order to launch military operations against Boko Haram. 39,700 people were displaced, the majority to Nguigmi and Bosso towns in Diffa (OCHA, 07/05/2015).

5 May: Eight districts have reported a meningitis epidemic; three others are in a state of alert. 3,304 suspected cases of meningitis, including 252 deaths, have been recorded so far. The country is under quarantine, while a shortage of vaccines is reported (OCHA, AFP).

30 April: A critical shortage of nutrition products in Diffa is expected to affect displaced and hosting populations as of May (WFP).

25 April: A BH assault on Karamga island left at least 74 people dead (AFP).

KEY CONCERNS

- An estimated 2.5 million people are food insecure, (410,297 severely food insecure) in 2015 (AFP, 17/04/2015).

- 1.3 million acutely malnourished children, 366,858 of whom are severely malnourished (OCHA, 01/2015).

- More than 150,000 Nigerian refugees have fled to Niger since May 2013 (OCHA, 02/2015).

- 1,749 cases and 64 deaths have been recorded since January in a cholera epidemic, reportedly linked to the one in neighbouring Nigeria (UNICEF, 11/2014).

Security Context

Insecurity has been rising in Niger and across the region due to crises in Nigeria, Mali and Libya. Terrorist threats from Boko Haram, Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb and the Movement for Oneness and Jihad in West Africa (MUJAO) are all of concern.

On 30 April, Niger authorities ordered populations out of the Lake Chad islands in order to launch military operations against Boko Haram (UNHCR, 30/04/2015). In February, Niger declared a state of emergency in response to Boko Haram attacks. It has been extended until 25 May (AFP, 24/02/2015; AFP, 26/02/2015). Niger’s Parliament has also authorised the deployment of 750 Niger soldiers in a regional offensive against BH (BBC, 10/02/2015).

Boko Haram Incidents

On 7 May, a Boko Haram attack on a village near Dosso killed five; militants looted homes and shops before crossing back to Nigeria (Reuters, 07/05/2015). An assault by the group on Karamga Island on 25 April left at least 74 people dead (AFP, 01/05/2015). Boko Haram launched its first attack in Niger on 6 February, on Bosso town, in Diffa. Thousands of troops from Niger and Chad launched a major ground and air offensive against BH in southeastern Niger in March (AFP, 14/03/2015). By 30 March, Chad and Niger troops had pushed BH back to Nigeria (international media, 31/03/2015).

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Access

Movement within Diffa, northern parts of Zinder, Tahoua, and Tillabery regions is possible only with military escorts (OCHA, 16/02/2015). The presence of landmines along the border between Niger and Nigeria, especially around Komadougou River, is preventing access to certain areas (UNHCR, 30/04/2015).

Displacement

Boko Haram Crisis

As of 7 May, there are 105,580 Nigerian refugees in Niger (OCHA, 07/05/2015). About 50,000 of Nigerian refugees living in the border areas of Diffa region have been displaced since the start of the year, as cross-border violence intensified in February (WFP, 07/05/2015). As of February, more than 2,800 had settled in Zinder region (OCHA, 02/2015).

25,700 people have been displaced from islands around Lake Chad to Nguigmi and Bosso towns, in Diffa, over 30 April – 7 May, after warnings over possible Boko Haram attacks in the region. 75% are Nigerians and third-country nationals. 47% are women and 37% children. Priority needs are for food, shelter, and WASH (OCHA, 07/05/2015). Another 14,000 Nigerian refugees reportedly returned to Nigeria (OCHA, 08/05/2015).

New arrivals have settled in 106 sites (UNICEF, 03/03/2015). Refugees who arrived earlier in the year are becoming host families for new arrivals, adding to the burden on families with very limited resources (IFRC, 03/10/2014).

Diffa is vulnerable to both flooding and drought, and has long faced serious gaps in the provision of food staples, healthcare and potable water.

Mali Crisis

As of 30 April, 50,530 Malian refugees are in Niger, including 14,500 in Intikane camp, and 12,840 in Abala camp in Tillabery region. 62% of refugees are children (UNHCR, 30/04/2015).
2.5 million people are estimated to be food insecure in 2015, compared to 5.3 million in 2014. 410,297 are severely food insecure (AFP, 17/04/2015; OCHA, 30/09/2014).

Around 200,000 people in Diffa region are in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food security (WFP, 07/05/2015). Security constraints have forced food assistance programmes to be scaled back (FEWSNET, 01/04/2015). Nigerian refugees are also Stressed in Diffa (FEWSNET, 01/05/2015). Pastoral zones of Nguigmi in Diffa region will remain in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) until September due to limited trade opportunities and high food prices.

Agriculture and Markets

Boko Haram-related market disruptions have limited trade flows towards Diffa and increased marketing costs (FEWSNET, 31/07/2014). Moreover, the new wave of internal displacement came when farmers should have been preparing to plant crops. This has raised concerns about the long-term economic impact of the violence (Reuters, 12/02/2015).

Cereal stocks are expected to significantly decrease by September, as well as overall food stocks in May-June in Ouallam, Tanout, Abalak, and Tchintabaraden departments. Poor households in these departments will remain Stressed (IPC Phase 2) until September (FEWSNET, 01/05/2015).

Poor resource availability in parts of the northern Sahel will begin to stress pastoral households from June to September 2015 (FEWSNET, 11/2014).

Livelihoods

In Diffa region, insecurity has led to a decrease in demand for workers and lowered wages. This has particularly affected livelihoods of households growing pepper, who are also unable to sell because of insecurity (FEWSNET, 01/04/2015).

Sahel Food Crisis: Regional Overview

20.4 million people in the Sahel (Burkina Faso, north Cameroon, Chad, the Gambia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, north Nigeria, and Senegal) are expected to suffer from food insecurity in 2015 (OCHA, 10/01/2014). In 2014, food insecurity rose dramatically to 24.7 million food insecure people, compared to 2013, when 11.3 million people had inadequate food (OCHA, 03/02/2014).

Health and Nutrition

Cholera

As of 5 April, 51 cases of cholera have been registered in Niger in 2015 and four deaths (UNICEF, 02/05/2015). 25 cases were registered in Tillabery region, and 26 in Diffa region (OCHA, 02/2015).

Measles

3,080 measles cases, including two deaths, were recorded from 1 January to 23 April in all eight regions of Niger. 77% of cases were in Zinder region. 12 out of 44 health districts have epidemic outbreaks (OCHA, 23/04/2015).

Meningitis

As of 3 May, 3,304 suspected cases of meningitis, including 252 deaths, were recorded in 2015. A meningitis epidemic has been reported in eight districts of Niger, while three others are in a state of alert. Agadez, Maradi, and Zinder are worst affected (OCHA, 23/04/2015). 70% of those infected are 2–15 years old (international media, 22/04/2015). The whole country is under quarantine.

A shortage of vaccines is reported, due to stocks having been used earlier in response to the same epidemic in Nigeria (OCHA, 05/05/2015; AFP, 04/05/2015).

Nutrition

In Diffa, a critical shortage of nutrition products is expected to affect displaced and hosting populations as of May (WFP, 30/04/2015). GAM is at 26% among Nigerian refugee children, and pregnant and breastfeeding refugee women, exceeding the 15% crisis threshold (WFP, 07/05/2015).

1.3 million children are acutely malnourished in Niger; 366,858 of them are severely malnourished, and 9,629 of these are in Diffa (OCHA, 14/04/2015; 22/12/2014). As of August 2014, GAM among children under five is at 14.8% nationwide, and exceeds the 15% emergency threshold in Maradi region (OCHA, 09/2014). Other regions of concern are Agadez (14.0%), Tahoua (14.7%), Tillabery (13.4%), and Diffa (13.8%).

WASH

Access to safe water remains limited in certain sites hosting IDPs. Hygiene and sanitation conditions are precarious in some areas (OCHA, 20/03/2015).

Education

On 17 April, the government of Niger ordered all schools to be shut in the region around Niamey following the meningitis outbreak. Schools are scheduled to reopen on 27 April 2015 (Reuters, 21/04/2015).

In Diffa region, dozens of schools were closed due to or occupied by refugees in December (OCHA, 12/12/2014). Several schools reopened in March, but attendance levels are low (OCHA, 20/03/2015).

Protection

82% of 13,000 Nigerian refugees surveyed in Diffa did not have identity documents, according to an IOM assessment (IOM, 23/02/2015). Unaccompanied children have been reported arriving from Nigeria (OCHA, 28/11/2014).
### LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

8 May: The aggregate 2014 cereal production was estimated at about 1.3 million tonnes, similar to the previous year’s harvest, but a 16% drop relative to the five-year average (GIEWS).

8 May: An estimated 640,000 people are in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food insecurity or worse during March-May 2015 (GIEWS).

### KEY CONCERNS

- Over 3.8 million people are food insecure, including 927,420 in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) due to erratic rains in 2014 (UN, 16/02/2015).
- 332,300 children suffering from acute malnutrition, 68,650 from severe acute malnutrition (OCHA, 30/11/2014).

#### Political Context

Separatists have long opposed authorities in the coastal Casamance area, but the country overall remains stable. Salif Sadio, leader of the separatist movement, declared a unilateral ceasefire in April 2014, as proof of engagement in an ongoing peace process.

#### Humanitarian Context and Needs

4.3 million people are in need of assistance in 2015 in Senegal (31% of the population), corresponding to a 266% increase on 2013. The needs are mostly due to climatic conditions, a rise in food prices, and reduced cross-border exchange (UN, 16/02/2015).

#### Displacement

As of February, there are 17,085 refugees in Matam, Saint Louis, and Tambacounda, mostly from Mauritania. 52% of refugees have declared they are seeking naturalisation in Senegal (UN, 18/02/2015).

#### Food Security

3.8 million people are food insecure. An estimated 640,000 people will be in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) and higher during March-May 2015 (GIEWS, 08/05/2015). Poor livestock conditions in the north and centre of the country led to incomes below average for livestock rearers. In Thiès, Louga, Matam, and northern Tambacounda, households rely on negative coping mechanisms, such as selling productive assets and reducing food intake, to compensate for the early exhaustion of their food stocks – which normally occurs in June (FEWSNET, 27/02/2015; 29/01/2015; 21/04/2015).

Under current conditions, approximately 1.25 million people are expected to face Crisis between May and September 2015 in the affected areas of Mauritaia and Senegal (FEWSNET, 05/05/2015). In October 2015, 100,000 to 490,000 people are expected to be in Stressed conditions (IPC Phase 2), and less than 100,000 are expected to be in Crisis (IPC phase 3) (FEWSNET, 20/04/2015).

#### Pastures

Satellite data collected by ACF highlights a deficit in the production of biomass in Northern Senegal. This deficit could have a negative impact on the pastoral environment (ACF, 14/04/2015).

Erratic rains have caused the depletion of grazing resources and lowered water points’ level in the major pastoral areas (GIEWS, 08/05/2015). Availability of pastures has been far below average, leading to shortages in food for livestock (FEWSNET, 14/04/2105). Pasture deficits will affect animal production and reduce breeders’ purchasing power; there is also a high risk of increased livestock mortality from April (FEWSNET, 29/01/2015).

#### Agriculture and Markets

The aggregate 2014 cereal production was an estimated 1.3 million tonnes, similar to the previous year’s harvest, but a 16% drop relative to the five-year average. Production of millet, the most important staple crop, is estimated to have dropped by 38% compared to the five-year average, while production of groundnut, the main cash crop, declined by 21%. This drop in production is reducing food availability and purchasing power. (FAO, 31/03/2015; GIEWS, 08/05/2015).

#### Sahel Food Crisis: Regional Overview

20.4 million people in the Sahel (Burkina Faso, north Cameroon, Chad, the Gambia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, north Nigeria, and Senegal) are expected to suffer from food insecurity in 2015. In 2014, food insecurity rose dramatically to 24.7 million food insecure people, from 11.3 million in 2013 (OCHA, 10/01/2014, 03/02/2014).

#### Health and Nutrition

Climate conditions are favourable to meningitis. High vigilance is advised over eastern Senegal and moderate vigilance over western Senegal (ACMAD, 02/04/2015).

#### Nutrition

332,300 children are acutely malnourished, including 68,650 suffering from SAM. Matam, Saint Louis (Podor department in particular), and Tambacounda regions are most affected (UN, 16/02/2015). 319,000 were acutely malnourished in 2013.

*Updated: 13/05/2015*
LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

18 May: President Nkurunziza fired the Ministers of Defence and Foreign Affairs (Le Point)

18 May: Military forces were deployed in the capital’s centre to contain protests (Reuters)

17 May: President Nkurunziza returned to the capital (Reuters)

16 May: Protests resumed against President Nkurunziza running for a third term (Reuters)

KEY CONCERNS

- Since the beginning of April, nearly 105,000 Burundians have sought asylum in DRC, Tanzania and Rwanda ahead of the 26 June presidential election. The region may face a refugee crisis (UNHCR).

- As of September, Burundi has 78,940 IDPs (UNHCR, 31/11/2014).

Political Context

The 25 April announcement that President Nkurunziza will be allowed to run for a third term sparked political demonstrations in the capital, Bujumbura. On 26 April, the party speaker of the National Liberation Forces, the opposition group, was kidnapped (ICG 30/04/2015). On 13 May, Major General Godefroid Niyombareh, former head of intelligence, announced that a national salvation committee had been set up to run the country; President Nkurunziza was in Tanzania (BBC, 13/05/2015; Reuters, 13/05/2015). After two days of intense clashes in the capital, leaders of the coup admitted their defeat, although protests resumed in some areas of Bujumbura on 16 May (AFP, 15/05/2015; Reuters, 16/05/2015). President Nkurunziza has returned to Bujumbura and fired the Defence and Foreign Affairs Ministers (Reuters, 17/05/2015; Le Point, 18/05/2015).

Under the Burundian constitution and the terms of the peace deal, no leader is supposed to hold power for more than ten years. President Nkurunziza’s supporters argue that his first term does not count, as he was selected by lawmakers in 2005, and not voted in (Reuters, 20/03/2015). On 5 May, the country’s constitutional court approved his bid for the elections, scheduled on 26 June (AFP, 05/05/2015). The Vice President of the Constitutional Court fled to Rwanda before the Court approved the bid, reporting death threats (AFP, 05/05/2015). Scores of political killings, intimidation of the opposition, and a crackdown on media freedom have been reported since President Nkurunziza’s re-election in 2010. Observers stated concerns about restrictions on civil and political rights after a series of violent acts by the ruling party’s increasingly militant youth wing, Imbonerakure.

The Government, the National Independent Electoral Commission, and all political parties and actors signed the General Principles for the conduct of the 2015 elections in June 2014 (UN, 10/06/2014). The UN Electoral Observation Mission in Burundi (MENUB) is mandated to follow and report on the presidential, parliamentary, and local elections scheduled between May and September 2015, though the Government has stated that MENUB’s mandate is limited, and does not cover validating the results (UN, 03/01/2015; AFP, 12/01/2015). Western countries, including the US and UK, have warned that Nkurunziza’s bid is unconstitutional and urge parties to find a political solution to the conflict (local media, 05/05/2015; Reuters, 04/05/2015). The US, EU, and Kenya have called to delay elections. A presidential communiqué has mentioned delaying the communal and legislative elections, planned for 26 May (OCHA, 18/05/2015).

Security Context

As of 12 May, at least 17 individuals have been killed in election-related violence (including 14 civilians), 200 injured, and at least 600 arrested. Protests are mainly taking place in the capital but some communes in Bujumbura Rural and Bururi provinces also reported demonstrations on 12 May (OCHA, 12/05/2015). Reports of unrest and violence targeting unarmed civilians are increasing (OCHA, 12/05/2015; local media, 05/05/2015; local media, 05/05/2015; AFP 02/05/2015; OCHA 04/05/2015). On 17 May, heavy gunshots were heard although details are not available. Military forces were deployed in the city centre to contain protests (Reuters, 18/05/2015).

Few international actors on the ground have prepared contingency plans should violence worsen during and after elections (Burundi Red Cross, 04/03/2015). Eight provinces have been identified as potential ‘hot spots’ (Cibitoke, Bubanza, Bujumbura Mairie, Bujumbura Rural, Bururi, Makamba, Kirundo and Muyinga) (ICG 30/04/2015; HCT, 24/04/2015). Since the attempted coup, the UN Security Council stated that it was ready to respond to violent acts (UN News Service, 17/05/2015).

Earlier army reports had suggested that a major offensive had been planned to destabilise the country ahead of the elections (AFP, 05/01/2014; 06/01/2014). In January, the Burundian army claimed it killed 100 armed fighters who had crossed from DRC. The fighters were reportedly trying to reach Kibira forest, an area used as a base by opposition groups in the past. A Human Rights Watch report published in February asserted that during this attack, the Burundian National Defense Forces and police committed at least 47 extrajudicial executions, adding that armed members of the Imbonerakure also participated in the killings (Human Rights Watch, 12/02/2015).

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Disasters: Landslides

Torrential rains in late March caused landslides south of Bujumbura, which killed 20 people; ten more are missing. Crops have been severely damaged (local media, 30/03/2015; Caritas, 01/04/2015). Around 1,800 people were staying with family. Roads, bridges, and schools were seriously damaged (Burundi Red Cross, 01/04/2015).
Displacement

IDPs

As of January 2015, Burundi has 77,600 IDPs (IDMC, 31/01/2015). They are mostly ethnic Tutsis, located in and around 120 sites across northern and central Burundi, who were displaced by inter-ethnic and inter-communal violence (IDMC).

According to national and international organisations, in the first six months of an election crisis and related violence in Burundi, 250,000 people could be displaced. People have been seen fleeing the capital but no numbers are available (HCT, 24/04/2015; START Network, 05/05/2015).

Refugees

As of September, Burundi is host to 49,800 refugees, mostly from DRC (UNHCR, 31/11/2014). Refugees are mainly located in the border regions of Ngozi (north, alongside Rwanda), Ruyigi, Muyinga, and Cankuzo (east, alongside Tanzania) and Bubanza (west, alongside DRC).

Returnees

79,000 Burundian returnees are also going through slow reintegration processes, including 43,000 who have been forcibly repatriated from Tanzania. Most have not been registered due to a lack of reception facilities (IOM, 01/2014; HCT, 24/04/2015). The high number of IDPs and refugees returning is aggravating tensions over land ownership, as returnees claim land where other families, often of a different ethnic background, have since settled.

Burundian Refugees in Neighbouring Countries

As of 15 May, nearly 105,000 Burundians have sought asylum in Rwanda, DRC and Tanzania (UNHCR, 26/04/2015; 05/05/2015; 15/05/2015). Humanitarian actors on the ground are warning of a potential refugee crisis in the region as a result of election-related displacement into Rwanda, Tanzania and DRC.

Rwanda: Daily arrivals have been as high as 1,000 in Rwanda, falling to 300 in the first days of May. (UNHCR, 26/04/2015; 05/05/201). 60% are children (UNHCR, 17/04/2015). Unconfirmed reports suggest most of those who are fleeing are Tutsi and Twa (WFP, 28/04/2015). Refugees started arriving in Rwanda and DRC in mid-April (local media, 12/04/2015).

Tanzania: The number of Burundians to have arrived in Tanzania has increased dramatically in May: from nearly 7,000 on 6 May, to 48,288 by 13 May, and 70,187 as of 15 May (UNHCR, 06/05/2015; 13/05/2015; 15/05/2015).

53,000 refugees/asylum seekers are waiting on Tanzania’s Kagununga Island, which has a resident population of 12,000, and limited WASH facilities (UNHCR, 18/05/2015). There has been a confirmed outbreak of severe watery diarrhoea on Kagununga, with seven deaths and 300 people being treated (UNHCR, 17/04/2015). There have also been two confirmed cases of cholera (Reuters, 18/05/2015). As of 18 May, the main way off the island is a ferry, which can carry a few hundred passengers at a time. This has made the relocation of people to Nyarugusu refugee camp, on the mainland, difficult and slow. Those that are able are encouraged to walk, using a path that is normally used by villagers from Kagununga (UNHCR, 18/05/2015).

Uganda: As of 1 September 2014, 14,367 Burundian refugees and asylum-seekers were residing in Uganda. Most Burundian refugees are located in Nakivale and Oruchinga (UNHCR, 23/09/2014).

DRC: Between early April and 15 May, 9,183 asylum seekers arrived (UNHCR, 15/05/2015). As of 30 September 2014, 9,233 Burundian refugees were residing in DRC (UNHCR, 30/09/2014).

Kenya: As of 1 March 2015, 6,619 Burundian refugees were residing in Kenya (UNHCR, 01/03/2015), most of them in Kakuma camp.

Health and Nutrition

The Health Ministry confirmed 11 cholera patients under treatment in Nyanza Lac health centre, Makamba province, bordering Tanzania (OCHA, 18/05/2015).

Loyalist forces entered in a hospital in the western part of Bujumbura to find soldiers affiliated to the coup. Violent clashes resulted in the death of one soldier and severe damage to the A&E department of the hospital (AFP, 17/05/2015).

Food Security

As the lean season progresses, household food stocks and purchasing power have declined. Food security for the poor is expected to deteriorate to Stressed (IPC Phase 2) until the beginning of Season B in June. The rest of the households will remain in Minimal (IPC Phase 1) food security through June (FEWSNET, 31/03/2015).

Livelihoods

Economic activities in Bujumbura are significantly hampered by protests, with most businesses and banks closed, raising concern for the impact on an already fragile economy (OCHA, 04/05/2015).

Markets

Most staple food prices are roughly 25% above the five-year average, particularly in Bujumbura, Ruyigi, Myinga, and Gitega markets (FEWSNET, 31/03/2015).

Education

Schools in many parts of Bujumbura have been closed since 26 April, owing to movement restrictions in the city. The University has also been closed (START Fund, 05/05/2015; OCHA, 12/05/2015).

Protection
Prominent human rights activists have been arrested (ICG 30/04/2015). Burundians are reporting incidents of harassment and disappearance of family members who are associated with the political opposition (ICG, UNHCR, 17/04/2015). Many people reported difficulties while trying to leave Burundi, such as threats of sexual violence by armed men and roadblocks (OCHA, 12/05/2015).

A presidential communiqué warned that the ban on protests would be valid throughout the electoral period and that protesters would be considered as “accomplices” of the coup perpetrators (OCHA, 18/05/2015).

Violence against Journalists

Independent radio stations have closed and social media networks have been blocked (ICG 30/04/2015). Isanganiro and Bonesha FM have been restricted from broadcasting outside Bujumbura. The national telecommunications company ONATEL has also disconnected the telephone lines of private radio stations (OCHA, 12/05/2015). Journalists are reportedly facing violence and intimidation from authorities and members of the Imbonerakure (RSF, 30/04/2015; Human Rights Watch, 22/01/2015).

Child Protection

A high number of separated and unaccompanied children are crossing into neighbouring countries, raising protection concerns for unaccompanied minors (UNICEF, 12/04/2015).

Updated: 18/05/2015

NAMIBIA FOOD INSECURITY

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

29 April: 2015 crop production is estimated to be 30% lower than in 2014 and 33% lower than the five-year average; grazing conditions for livestock are also poor (Southern African FNS working group).

KEY CONCERNS

- 2015 crop production is estimated to be 30% lower than in 2014 and 33% lower than the five-year average due to prolonged dry spells since January, affecting 28,000 people in Omusati region (FNS working group, 29/04/2015; local media, 31/03/2015).

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Food Security

Large parts of the country, including the main producing regions of Oshikoto, Oshana and Omusati, have received well below-average rains since January. At least 28,000 people from Ruacana in Omusati region are in need of food aid as a result of poor crops (NOAA, 08/04/2015; local media, 31/03/2015). Mitigation measures have been put into place by the Government until the June harvest (local media, 27/04/2015).

At July 2014, 117,660 people were affected by a food security crisis and around 557,900 people in rural areas were at risk of food insecurity and requiring assistance. Kunene, and parts of Omaheke, Otjozondjupa, Omusati, and Erongo regions, were most affected (SADC, 08/2014).

Agriculture and Markets

Crop production is estimated to be 30% lower than 2014 and 33% lower than the five-year average; grazing conditions for livestock are also poor (Southern African FNS working group, 29/04/2015; FAO, 28/04/2015; 11/03/2015; WFP, 03/03/2015). Farmers are in need of livestock support (local media, 24/03/2015). Price increases as a result of fewer imports from neighbouring countries also affected by dry conditions were reported in February (FAO, 28/04/2015).

Updated: 15/05/2015

UGANDA DISPLACEMENT

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

30 April: In Karamoja, food access and availability continue to decline, affecting around 180,000 people. The lean season began in January, four months earlier than normal. The next harvest is expected in August, four months later than usual (FEWSNET; FAO).

14 April: More than 12,000 cases of typhoid have been confirmed from Kampala, Wakiso, and Mukono districts in 2015, more than double the 19 March figure of 4,949 cases (CDC).

KEY CONCERNS

- 146,251 South Sudanese refugees have arrived in Uganda since December 2013 (IOM, 15/04/2015).

- In Karamoja, GAM rates of 13.4% are the highest recorded in the last five years, while SAM remains above 3%. The food security situation has declined since then, with potential implications on malnutrition (UNICEF, 23/01/2015).

- Rapid expansion of refugee camps has strained health services (UNFPA, 16/02/2015).

Security Context

Tensions around unexplained killings of Muslim leaders in Busoga subregion are rising (Government, 09/03/2015).

Humanitarian Context and Needs
Displacement

IDPs

As of 11 February, Uganda has 30,140 IDPs (OCHA, 11/02/2015).

Refugees in Uganda

As of 11 February, there were 422,440 refugees and asylum seekers in Uganda, including 274,582 children. The refugees and asylum seekers are mainly from DRC and South Sudan, with significant numbers from Somalia, Rwanda, and Burundi (UNICEF, 15/04/2015; OCHA, 11/02/2015). Refugees are hosted in settlements in Adjumani, Kibyandongo, Kampala and Arua districts (UNHCR, 24/11/2014). As camps are overwhelmed, preparation of new land in Maaji, Moyo district, is ongoing. As of 4 February, 261 people had been relocated (UNHCR, 04/02/2015).

As of 15 April, 146,251 South Sudanese refugees had fled to Uganda since December 2013, including 65% children (IOM, 18/03/2015; ECHO, 13/04/2015). Refugees continue to arrive at Elegu border point in Amuru district at a rate of 124 per day. Priority needs are for NFIs, livelihood and psychological support (ACT, 15/04/2015).

Ugandan Refugees in Neighbouring Countries

At 1 April, there were 1,669 Ugandan refugees in Kenya (UNHCR, 01/04/2015). At 30 June 2014, there were 1,211 Uganda refugees in DRC (UNHCR, 30/05/2014).

Food Security

In Karamoja, food access and availability continue to decline. About 180,000 people are expected to be in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) until at least next the harvest in August, which is four months later than usual, especially in Moroto and Kaabong districts, where food stocks have depleted 2-3 months earlier than usual (FEWSNET, 30/04/2015; FAO, 27/04/2015). The lean season began in January, four months earlier than normal. Below-average rainfall since January has decreased labour demand and lowered incomes. 700,000 people were Stressed (IPC Phase 2) as of end 2014 (FEWSNET, 31/12/2014).

Harsh climatic conditions and poor yields have deteriorated the food security situation in Arua district, which has lead to increased cost of food items (UNHCR, 18/03/2015).

Prices of food crops rose by 20–40% in March, mainly due to reduced stocks; maize prices increased by about 15%, reflecting a high import demand from Kenya (FAO, 27/04/2015). In bimodal areas, mostly in central and western Uganda, staple food prices increased in March. Minimal (IPC Phase 1) food insecurity is expected to last through July (FEWSNET, 30/04/2015).

Health and Nutrition

The rapid expansion of refugee camps has strained health services (UNFPA, 16/02/2015). Health centres affected by the refugee influx require immunisation, as well as medical infrastructure and support, especially in Arua (UNICEF, 15/04/2015; UNHCR, 20/01/2015). Health education related to HIV counselling and testing among refugees is also needed (UNHCR, 18/03/2015).

Nutrition

In Karamoja, GAM rates of 13.4% are the highest recorded in the last five years, while SAM prevalence remains above 3% (UNICEF, 23/01/2015).

SAM levels of 1.5% have been reported among South Sudanese refugees in Arua, Adjumani and Kibyandongo districts, compared to 4.1% in January (UNICEF, 15/04/2015).

Typhoid

As of 14 April, more than 12,000 cases of typhoid have been confirmed from Kampala, Wakiso, and Mukono districts in 2015, more than double the 19 March figure of 4,949 cases (CDC, 20/04/2015).

WASH

Boreholes have dried up, so water trucking has been necessary in Adjumani. In Arua, the water supply in March was 13.8L per person per day, and in Kibyandongo, 16L per person per day, both below the UNHCR standard of 20L (UNHCR, 18/03/2015).

The number of community-based hygiene promoters remains limited, with a ratio of 1:873 (UNHCR, 18/03/2015).

Updated: 15/05/2015

ERITREA FOOD INSECURITY

No accurate or verified data relating to food security of general humanitarian needs is available, therefore Eritrea is not included in the GEO prioritisation.

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

No new significant developments this week, 22/04/2015. Last update: 11/02/2015.

KEY CONCERNS

- 1.2 million people, including 696,000 children under 18, are in need of humanitarian assistance (UNICEF, 15/01/2015).
- Over 60% of the Eritrean population was reported as undernourished between 2011 and 2013 (WFP).
- Torture, arbitrary detention, and severe restrictions on freedom of expression, association, and religion are common in Eritrea (UN, HRW).
- Ongoing human rights abuses prompt thousands of Eritreans to flee the country every
year. In March 2015, Ethiopia was hosting 133,348 Eritrean refugees (OCHA, 20/04/2015).

- Operations and maintenance of established humanitarian systems remain a significant challenge (UNICEF, 15/01/2015).

Political Context

Eritrea is a one-party state governed by President Isaias Afwerk and his party People’s Front for Democracy and Justice (PFDJ). No national elections have been held since Eritrea gained independence from Ethiopia in 1993.

Humanitarian Context and Needs

1.2 million people need humanitarian assistance as of 15 January 2015, including 696,000 children under 18 (UNICEF, 15/01/2015).

Access

There is a lack of updated and reliable data on the humanitarian situation due to limited humanitarian access. Providing direct humanitarian assistance remains a challenge due to limited access, and absence of assessments and humanitarian space (ECHO, 10/2013). In November–December 2013, several projects in partnership with the UN and the Government began; the Government had previously ordered the end of all operations by non-state development partners by the end of 2012 (IFRC, 30/05/2014).

Displacement

Refugees

As of March 2015, there were 2,758 Somali refugees in Eritrea (UNHCR, 08/04/2015).

Eritrean Refugees in Neighbouring Countries

The entire Eritrean refugee population is estimated to constitute more than 321,000 people (Guardian, 21/04/2015). UN estimates that some 4,000 Eritreans, among them hundreds of unaccompanied minors, are fleeing the country every month to escape government repression and lack of basic freedoms (UN, 05/06/2014). Eritreans constitute the second biggest group of migrants arriving in Italy by boat, after Syrians (Reuters, 24/03/2015). The high proportion of unaccompanied minors who cross from Eritrea to Ethiopia is a priority concern (UNHCR).

Ethiopia: At the end of March, there were 133,348 Eritrean refugees in Ethiopia (OCHA, 20/04/2015), mainly settled in four camps in the northern Tigray and Afar regions (UNICEF, 21/04/2015). Arrival rates spiked towards the end of 2014, with a total of 33,000 arriving by the end of the year (OCHA, 24/11/2014; UNHCR, 09/02/2015). The recent influx has resulted in shortages of shelter in the camps (OCHA, 26/01/2015). During March, Ethiopia registered 3,636 new arrivals from Eritrea (OCHA, 20/04/2015).

About 90% of those who arrived in October were between 18 and 24 years old, and cited intensified mandatory recruitment into military service as their reason for flight (local media, 15/11/2014).

Sudan: Sudan reportedly hosts at least 114,500 Eritrean refugees. Eastern Sudan received an average of 500 Eritrean refugees per month in 2013, down from 2,000 a month in 2012.

Djibouti: As of 1 January, there were 1,240 Eritrean refugees in Djibouti (UNHCR, 30/01/2015).

Yemen: Reports indicate hundreds of Eritrean refugees are scattered across the streets of Al Safeyah in Sana’a, without proper shelter or livelihood. Refugees have informed UNHCR that many are imprisoned upon arrival in Yemen, on the grounds of security concerns (Yemen Times, 19/08/2014). Several NGOs have called on the Yemeni authorities to stop deporting Eritrean political refugees (UNHCR).

Kenya: As of 31 March, there were 1,543 Eritrean refugees in Kenya; the majority located in Nairobi (UNHCR, 31/03/2015).

Chad: On 6 February, the Chadian Government announced plans to deport a dozen Eritrean refugees from Chad. Humanitarian organisations have protested the move, as the returnees will most probably face indefinite detention in Eritrea (local media, 06/02/2015).

Food Security

A positive rainy season between June and September 2014, may significantly improve the food security situation in highland areas, but not in the coastal lowland regions (UNICEF, 15/01/2015).

It is estimated that Eritrea produces only 60% of the food it needs, and markets appear to be dysfunctional. These two factors suggest that a significant part of the population may be in need of food assistance. Due to extensive national service, farmers are routinely absent during harvest periods (Economist, 10/03/2014). In addition, local food and fuel prices are likely to be high, putting severe pressure on household coping mechanisms. The Government officially denies any food shortages within its borders and refuses food aid (ECHO).

Health and Nutrition

According to FAO in 2013, over 60% of the Eritrean population was reported to be undernourished between 2011 and 2013.

Protection

Indefinite national service, and arbitrary arrest and detention, including incommunicado detention and inhumane prison conditions, were the focus of a March 2015 UN human rights report (UN Human Rights Council). The UN human rights chief has accused the
government of torture and summary executions (UN Human Rights Council, 05/02/2014).

In September 2014, the UN Human Rights Council set up a Commission of Inquiry to investigate human rights abuses in Eritrea; however by January 2015 it had still not been granted direct access to the country (Human Rights Watch, 24/09/2014; UNHRC, 16/01/2015).

Mines and ERW

With only 25% of minefields cleared, UNICEF reported in January 2015 that the impact of landmines and ERWs continue to have a serious impact on the population, including causing deaths, injuries and disabilities. Humanitarian mine action programmes in the country have been scaled down due to limited access (UNICEF, 15/01/2015). There are 995 dangerous areas, 914 mined areas and 702 minefields in Eritrea (UN Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea).

Reviewed: 22/04/2015

KEY CONCERNS

- Between January and March 2015, 1,810 civilian casualties; casualties from ground engagements and mortars and rockets rose 8% and 47% respectively compared to the same period in 2014; women and children casualties continue to increase (UNAMA, 12/04/2015).


- 242,732 refugees from Pakistan since mid-June 2014; long-term concerns from protracted displacement (UNHCR, 22/04/2015; 06/04/2015).

- 829,300 IDPs, including 156,200 people displaced by conflict in 2014 (UNHCR, 28/02/2015; 31/12/2014).

- Nearly 68,000 people (9,300 families) in 137 districts of 24 provinces have been affected by floods, heavy snowfall, and avalanches over 1 February–15 April. Priority needs are for food, NFIs, and emergency shelter (ECHO, 15/04/2015; IFRC, 18/03/2015).

- 3.7 million people are food insecure (IPC, 01/11/2014).

- 517,600 children under five suffer from SAM, and eight provinces show GAM rates above 15%, breaching the emergency threshold (UNICEF, 21/01/2015, OCHA, 31/07/2014).

OVERVIEW

Natural disasters and armed conflicts in Afghanistan have caused humanitarian crisis. Assistance needs include food, healthcare, and protection.

The Afghan Government faces both internal and external challenges to its capacity and legitimacy, and political instability. The security environment is highly volatile and expected to deteriorate as international troops gradually withdraw from the country.

Severe humanitarian crisis = Pre-crisis vulnerability + % population affected + Humanitarian access

Political Context

Afghan President Ashraf Ghani introduced a list of 16 new cabinet appointments on 1 April,
replacing the candidates rejected by Parliament end January (local media, 01/04/2015; AFP, 04/02/2015). Ashraf Ghani and Abdullah Abdullah were sworn in as Afghanistan’s new President and Prime Minister, respectively, on 29 September 2014 (Reuters, 29/09/2014). The pair were rival presidential candidates in disputed elections (AFP, 26/09/2014).

Peace Talks with the Taliban

Peace talks with the Afghan Taliban have been stalled since mid-2013. On 10 January, Afghanistan joined Pakistan in military operations against militants in both countries (British & Irish Agencies Afghanistan Group, 31/01/2015). On 2 May 2015 an Afghan delegation held an open discussion in Qatar with the Taliban (Trust.org, 04/05/2015; AFP, 02/05/2015).

Security Context

On 22 April, Afghan Taliban announced the start of its spring offensive, targeting foreign embassies and government officials, as well as military (Trust.org, 22/04/2015). Assaults increased in five districts of Kunduz province in early May (BBC, Afghanistan Analyst Network).

Military operations intensified in the north of Helmand during the second half of February, and turned west/southwest early March (UNHCHR, 28/02/2015). There were 1,810 civilian casualties between 1 January and 31 March (655 killed, 1,155 injured). Civilian casualties from ground engagements rose by 8%, casualties from mortars and rockets by 47%, and women and children casualties continue to increase. The sustained use of indiscriminate weapons and IEDs is of concern (UNAMA, 12/04/2015). 3,699 civilians were killed and 6,849 injured in 2014, a 22% increase in casualties on 2013 (UNAMA, 18/02/2015).

Taliban

Remote parts of southern and southeastern Afghanistan, near the border with Pakistan, remain under Taliban control. Taliban numbers have increased by 15% since the beginning of 2013, as the group has intensified attacks. The Taliban is increasingly financed by criminal enterprises, including heroin laboratories, illegal ruby and emerald mines, and kidnapping (UNSC, 02/02/2015).

International Military Presence

NATO formally ended its combat mission in Afghanistan on 31 December 2014, moving to the Resolute Support mission made up of 9,800 US troops and 3,000 soldiers from other member states. The mission will focus on supporting Afghan forces’ fight against the Taliban, along with US counter-terrorism operations (Reuters, 01/01/2015). The number of US troops remaining in Afghanistan until end December is significantly higher than the 5,500 initially planned, and has been denounced by the Taliban (Le Monde, 24/03/2015).

Conflict Developments and Incidents

Helmand: Four civilians and three police were killed and seven people wounded in the attack in Lashkargah on 13 May (Reuters, 13/05/2015). On 20 April, Taliban militants attacked a police station in Lashkargah, killing three officers (Trust.org 20/04/2015). Three Taliban attacks in March, targeting provincial officials and a police station, killed 20 people and wounded 69 (AFP, 18/03/2015; 11/03/2015; 03/03/2015).

Kabul: Three people working with the EU police were killed on 17 May in a Taliban car bombing (AFP, 17/05/2015). 14 civilians, most of them foreigners, were killed in a Taliban attack targeting a guesthouse (AFP, 14/05/2015). A Taliban suicide bomber struck a government bus on 10 May, killing three and wounding at least 16 others (AFP, 10/05/2015). A suicide car bombing of a bus carrying civil servants in West Kabul on 4 May killed one and wounded 15 (Trust.org, 04/05/2015). Bombing and suicide attacks targeting mainly government and foreign officials have killed 24 and wounded at least 32 in March and April (AFP, 10/04/2015; 06/04/2015; 25/03/2015; 17/03/2015; 07/03/2015; 26/02/2015).

Nangahar: A suicide attack killed 33 people and wounded 115 others in Jalalabad on 18 April. President Ghani said Islamic State (IS) claimed responsibility, making this its first major attack in the country (AFP, 18/04/2015). A suicide attack targeting a NATO convoy killed three and wounded four (AFP, 10/04/2015).

Kunduz: Taliban offensives took place simultaneously in five districts on 2 and 3 May (Afghanistan Analyst Network, 3/05/2015). The Taliban, supported by foreign fighters, has come close to the provincial capital, cutting it off (Trust.org, 06/05/2015, 07/05/2015; BBC, 07/05/2015; AFP, 08/05/2015). The Government launched a major offensive on 7 May near the city. 100 people, including ten elders, have been killed since an estimated 50 foreign fighters, from an unidentified group, settled in the province. Residents have been asked for money, girls’ education is regulated, and meetings with government officials are subject to authorisation.

Other incidents: Taliban insurgents abducted 27 people in Paktia province on 16 May but released 25 of them the next day (AFP, 16/05/2015; 17/05/2015). Dozens of Taliban fighters attacked local government buildings in Badghis and may have captured the whole area on 10 May (Reuters, 10/05/2015). During April, security incidents, mainly bombing, gun attacks and fire exchanges, in Laghman, Nimroz, Ghazni, Balkh, Baghlan, Uruzgan and Logar killed at least 46 people and injured dozens (AFP, 25/04/2015; 23/04/2015, 10/04/2015, 04/04/2015, 03/04/2015; Trust.org, 26/04/2015).

Suspected Taliban gunmen abducted 31 members of the country’s Hazara Shi’ite Muslim minority on 23 February in Zabul province. As of 11 May, 12 are still held hostage and one had been killed (BBC, 11/05/2015; Trust.org 20/04/2015; AFP, 24/03/2015; 17/03/2015).

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Planning figures are for 6.9 million Afghans in need of humanitarian aid in 2015, including 2.8 million children, compared to 7.4 million in 2014 (UNICEF, 21/01/2015). Badghis, Helmand, Kunar, Nangarhar, and Wardak most need assistance (OCHA, 25/11/2014).
As of 8 May, commercial flights to Kunduz have been suspended (AFP, 08/05/2015). As of 30 April, WFP has reported no accessibility to some districts bordering Pakistan, in east Farah, south Ghor and north Helmand as well as to the north of Badghis and south of Jowzjan (WFP, 30/04/2015). Access in January was most constrained in parts of Helmand, Kandahar, Ghor, Paktika, Khost, Nangarhar, and Nuristan (WFP, 19/01/2015).

Security Incidents Involving Aid Workers

In Paktia province, 19 mine clearance workers were abducted and released two days later elders (Trust.org, 20/04/2015; 21/04/2015). Five members of an NGO’s national staff were killed by their abductor on 10 April in Uruzgan (UN, 11/04/2015).

In March, there were 19 incidents against national and international NGOs. Four people were wounded, ten abducted, and two arrested (OCHA, 19/04/2015). There were 293 incidents against aid workers in 2014, including 57 killed (UN, 11/04/2015; OCHA, 31/12/2014).

Disasters

Between 5 and 11 May, heavy rains triggered flooding and resulted in fatalities over the Faryab and Baghlan areas of northern Afghanistan (local media, 15/05/2015). At least 52 people, mostly women and children, were killed after a landslide that swept through a village in Badakhshan province on 28 April. The road to the village is closed six months of the year (AFP, 28/04/2015).

Nearly 68,000 people (9,300 families) in 137 districts of 24 provinces were affected by floods, heavy snowfall, and avalanches over 1 February–15 April. The most affected provinces are Jowzjan, Faryab, Sare Pol, Baghlan, and Balkh. 291 people have died. Nearly 9,000 houses have been damaged or destroyed, and communication lines interrupted in some remote areas. Accessibility and security challenges due to road closures and areas controlled by non-state armed groups are hampering needs assessment and aid provision in some provinces. Priority needs are for food, NFI, and emergency shelter (ECHO, 15/04/2015; IOM/USAID, 15/03/2015; IFRC, 18/03/2015; IFRC; 11/05/2015).

Displacement

There are 829,300 IDPs in Afghanistan and 242,732 refugees from Pakistan in Khost and Paktika provinces; returns from Pakistan are increasing since December 2014, while around 2.5 million Afghans have taken refuge in neighbouring countries.

IDPs

At end February, there were 829,300 profiled IDPs in Afghanistan, including 46% displaced in January, and 156,200 displaced by conflict in 2014. Nearly 213,200 IDPs are in the south, 206,430 in the west, 140,000 in the east and 133,100 in central Afghanistan.

Fighting in Kunduz has reportedly displaced 14,000 families as of 8 May (AFP, 08/05/2015).

Military operations in Helmand have triggered displacement since February and by 31 March, the Kandahar Provincial Disaster Management Committee (PDMC) had reported 1,896 displaced families. Priority needs are food and NFI; health needs also emerged in the south (UNHCR, 28/02/2015, 31/12/2014, OCHA 19/04/2015).

Refugees

Displacement from Pakistan to Afghanistan’s Khost and Paktika provinces has been ongoing since mid-June 2014. As of 13 May, these provinces were hosting around 205,113 refugees (32,543 families) from Pakistan, 75% of whom are in Khost (UNHCR, 13/05/2015). Urgent needs remain for shelter, nutrition, and WASH (UNHCR, 08/04/2015; 01/04/2015). Spontaneous returns of refugees to Pakistan have been reported, although the number is unknown (UNHCR, 14/04/2015; 08/04/2015).

An additional 600,000 Baloch refugees who have fled insurgency activities in Pakistan since 1986 are living in precarious conditions, notably in Nimroz (AAN, 31/12/2014).

Returnees

Returns of Afghans from Pakistan have increased following security incidents in the country, particularly the December Taliban attack in Peshawar. As of 13 May, 60,000 Afghans have returned home voluntarily since early 2015 and 6,000 have been expelled (AFP, 13/05/2015). 30–40% of undocumented returnees are vulnerable and in need of assistance (OCHA, 28/02/2015; IOM, 13/02/2015). 25,000 people returned in 2014 (AFP, 13/05/2015).

Afghan Refugees in Neighbouring Countries

As of 30 September 2014, there were 2.5 million Afghan refugees in neighbouring countries (USAID, 01/10/2014).

Food Security

As of April, Badghis province is in IPC Phase 3. Badakhshan, Nuristan, Ghor, Daykundi and Bamyan are in IPC Phase 2 (FEWSNET, 01/05/2015). IDPs and households affected by heavy rains and snowfall in 2015 are expected to remain Stressed (IPC Phase 2) through June (FEWSNET, 31/03/2015). In October 2015, it is estimated that 500,000 to 990,000 people will be in IPC Phase 3 or higher (FEWSNET 20/04/2015).

Agriculture and Markets

Floods and avalanches since 23 February have destroyed farmland and orchards across the country (Government, 28/02/2015).

2014 wheat production was 64% lower than 2013, and January 2015 wheat grain and flour prices have increased 12% on average compared to 2014, leading to excess sales of livestock; Badghis province is most affected (FEWSNET, 11/02/2015).

Livelihoods
Political uncertainty over 2014 led to decreased investment in many sectors, including construction and trade, which are key employers of casual labour. Faryab province saw the largest decline in casual labour wages: rates were 43% lower in September than in 2013 and the five-year average (FEWSNET, 01/11/2014). Decreased prices for some cash crops compared to last year is limiting income (FEWSNET, 01/12/2014).

Opium poppy cultivation in Afghanistan has risen by 7% in a year, from 209,000 hectares in 2013 to 224,000 hectares in 2014 (UN, 12/11/2014).

Health and Nutrition

A spike in pneumonia cases and deaths has been reported among children under five, notably in Takhar province, following severe weather conditions (OCHA, 05/03/2015). Increasing reports of malaria and measles cases, especially in Paktika, Khost, Balkh and Zabul provinces, are a cause for concern.

There is a shortage of trained surgeons, anaesthetists, and trauma capacity in conflict-affected areas (OCHA, 25/11/2014). Nearly 80% of maternal and reproductive health needs are unmet (WHO, 10/12/2014). Tuberculosis is also a high burden for Afghanistan, but many new cases were missed out in 2014 due to lack of close monitoring (Government, 24/03/2015).

Measles

Nine measles outbreaks were reported between 19 and 25 April from Nangarhar, Paktika, and Paktia provinces (Government, 07/03/2015; DEWS-plus, 29/04/2015). 445 laboratory-confirmed cases of measles were reported in the first quarter of 2015, representing a significant increase from last year's total of 581 cases (WHO, 26/04/2015).

Nutrition

517,596 children suffer from SAM (UNICEF, 21/01/2015). In Uruzgan, Nuristan, Khost, Paktia, Wardak, Kunar, and Laghman provinces, GAM rates were breaching the emergency threshold of 15% in mid-2014 (National Nutrition Survey, OCHA 31/07/2014).

An estimated 45% of all child deaths in refugee and IDP camps are linked to malnutrition (UNICEF, 21/01/2015). The presence of common animal diseases in areas of Khost and Paktika have reduced the availability of meat and milk products to Pakistani refugees and host communities (FEWSNET, 11/02/2015). Fewer than 20% of children with SAM and MAM received the treatment they needed in 2014 (OCHA, 25/11/2014).

Polio

One case of polio has been reported so far in 2015, from Helmand province. 28 cases were reported in 2014, mostly in conflict-affected areas, compared to 14 in 2013 and 37 in 2012 (WHO, 26/04/2015; Global Polio Eradication Initiative, 25/02/2015; 14/01/2015).

WASH

1.9 million Afghans are in need of better access to safe WASH facilities (UNICEF, 21/01/2015). Refugee influxes have stretched already limited water and hygiene resources and infrastructure in Khost and Paktika; lack of solid waste management and latrines are major challenges (UNHCR, 08/04/2015).

Shelter

A growing number of IDPs live in informal settlements in major Afghan urban centres, in substandard and crowded accommodation, with insufficient WASH facilities, food, education, and employment opportunities. Women are particularly at risk, with reduced access to education, health, and livelihood opportunities, and facing significant unmet mental health needs (NRC, 23/03/2015). As of 11 December, 40,629 refugees were in 52 informal settlements in the capital. The most populated is Charahi Qamber (7,436 people) (OCHA, 17/12/2014). Overall numbers on people in informal shelters across Afghanistan are missing.

Education

Educational facilities in Khost are overstretched, with 344 schools employing 6,000 teachers and teaching around 360,000 children. There are 50,000 school-aged refugee children in Khost (Institute for War and Peace Reporting, 05/11/2014).

Protection

Child Protection

The Afghan national and local police and three armed groups (Taliban, Haqqani Network, and Hezb-e-Islami) have been listed for recruitment and use of children, which has been criminalised in December 2014 (Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict 02/05/2015).

Detention

35% of visited detainees in national facilities have experienced ill-treatment or torture, including 42% of child detainees, in a United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) study conducted between February 2013 and December 2014. The same type of study over 2011–2012 showed 49% of detainees had experienced ill-treatment or torture (OHCHR, UNAMA, 25/02/2015).

Mines and ERW

4,271 minefields and battlefields remain in Afghanistan, corresponding to almost 536 km² in 255 districts of 33 provinces (MAPA/MACCA, 06/04/2015). There is an average of 38 civilian casualties every month and another 61 civilian casualties are recorded due to improvised explosive devices (IED) (MAPA, 18/05/2015).

As of 23 April, 919,546 m² in Gulan camp has been cleared as well as 1,276,870 m² around the camp, where refugees have settled more recently (UNHCR, 23/04/2015; 05/03/2015).

Sexual Violence

Sexual violence is underreported because of the social stigma attached to it and lack of
access to Taliban-controlled areas. Between January 2014 and January 2015, UNAMA registered 44 cases (UN Security Council, 15/04/2015).

Updated, 18/05/2015

IRAQ CONFLICT, INTERNAL UNREST, DISPLACEMENT

For the latest Briefing Notes, visit the ACAPS country analysis page.

For information relating to the Syria crisis, see SNAP’s latest reports.

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

17 May: Islamic State captured Ramadi, the provincial capital of Anbar, killing at least 500 people and displacing more than 42,840 people to Falluja and Khaldiyah districts (OCHA; AFP).

12–14 May: At least ten people were killed in attacks targeting Shi’ite worshippers marching to a Baghdad shrine (AFP).

KEY CONCERNS

- Around 810 deaths recorded by UNAMI in April, including around 535 civilians. Approximately 12,000 people were killed in 2014, corresponding to the worst levels of violence since 2006–2007 (UNAMI, 02/05/2015; 01/01/2015).

- Around 8.3 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance, including 2.8 million IDPs and 2.2 million beyond the reach of aid agencies (ECHO, 12/12/2014; IOM, 30/04/2015).

- Access continues to be severely constrained in large parts of Anbar, Diyala, Kirkuk, Ninewa and Salah al Din (UN, 01/05/2015).

- 248,370 registered Syrian refugees are in Iraq; 64% are women and children (UNHCR, 30/04/2015).

- Protection is a key concern, particularly in areas directly affected by conflict and under Islamic State (IS) control.

OVERVIEW

The IS insurgency has compounded an already fragile political and humanitarian situation, leading to a level 3 humanitarian crisis and international military intervention.

Iraq now hosts one of the largest internally displaced populations in the world. Priority needs are food, water, shelter, fuel and access to healthcare. Access constraints and human rights violations, particularly in IS-controlled areas, are of major concern. There are large information gaps on the situation of affected populations outside of the Kurdistan region of Iraq.

Political Context

National Political Context

The perceived marginalisation of Sunni groups by former President Maliki’s Government is considered one of the main drivers of the current conflict. A unity government, led by President Abadi, was formed in September 2014. While trying to balance sectarian tensions inside the country, Abadi has been seeking to garner international support for the fight against Islamic State, including from neighbouring Sunni Arab states (Foreign Affairs, 16/01/2015).

Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KR-I)

Masoud Barzani’s Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) have ruled the autonomous KR-I through a coalition government since 2005. Barzani’s term has been extended to 2015, a move denounced as illegal by the opposition. In mid-November 2014, Baghdad and Erbil reached a budget agreement around oil revenues, which was incorporated into Iraq’s 2015 national budget law late January; political relations are developing positively, as both sides honoured their part of the deal end March (local media, 26/04/2015; UN, 02/12/2014).

Security Context

Around 810 people were killed in acts of violence in April, including 535 civilians, with Baghdad most affected (UNAMI, 02/05/2015). At least 12,000 people were killed and more than 23,000 injured in 2014, in the worst violence since 2006–2007. Reported casualty numbers are hard to verify in conflict areas (UNAMI, 01/01/2015).

Stakeholders

Islamic State (IS)

In June, IS declared the establishment of a Sunni caliphate, covering the area between Aleppo in northern Syria and Diyala in eastern Iraq. Abu Bakr al Baghdadi was declared caliph and leader for Muslims worldwide. IS has taken over large areas of northern and eastern Syria, and parts of northern and central Iraq. It has attracted more than 20,000 foreigners, out of a total fighting force of as many as 31,000 (ICSR, 21/01/2015; NBC, 02/2015).

Government Forces

Iraqi Security Forces (ISF), made up of around 48,000 troops, are involved in offensives around Baghdad, and in central governorates (Foreign Policy, 28/03/2015). The Prime Minister declared in January that falling global oil prices could lead to possible budget...
deficits, hampering capacity to undertake military operations (Reuters, 22/01/2015).

Shi'a militias

Three militias have been supporting government forces on all major fronts against IS since the beginning of the insurgency, as part of the Popular Mobilisation Forces: Asa'ib, Kita'ib Hezbollah, and the Badr Brigades. The Popular Mobilisation Forces are made up of around 100,000 fighters, including 30,000 reportedly backed by the Iranian Government (Al Jazeera, 23/01/2015).

KR-I Forces

The Kurdish Peshmerga, supported by Kurdish fighters from Syria and Turkey, are engaged in a counteroffensive against IS. Kurdish fighters receive training and equipment from multiple countries, including the United States (AFP).

International Involvement

In August 2014, US forces started airstrikes on IS locations. On 15 September, 30 additional countries pledged to help Iraq fight IS. Iran has dispatched members of its elite Revolutionary Guards Corps and reportedly carried out airstrikes against IS (The Economist, 03/01/2015; The Guardian, 05/01/2015, 04/12/2014).

Conflict Developments

ISF and Kurdish forces have regained territory in 2015, recapturing populated areas of Diyala in January, and Al Baghdadi in Anbar early March (AFP, 26/01/2015; 08/03/2015). Peshmerga forces are fighting IS in Kirkuk. IS made important gains in Anbar in April.

Recent Incidents

Anbar: IS captured Ramadi on 17 May, killing at least 500 people in the operation against ISF and associated militias. ISF had launched operations to retake Anbar on 8 April (AFP, 17/05/2015; OCHA, 26/04/2015; ISW, 15/04/2015). Clashes have been ongoing in and around Falluja since 25–26 April, and a curfew is reportedly in place in the southeast of the city (OCHA, 28/04/2015). Three people were killed and 11 wounded by indiscriminate shelling in Falluja on 10 May (AFP, 10/05/2015).

Baghdad has seen nearly daily bombings and shootings since November 2014. At least ten people were killed in attacks targeting Shi'ite worshippers marching to a Baghdad shrine over 12–14 May (AFP, 14/05/2015; 12/05/2015). At least 11 people were killed and 18 wounded in separate attacks in the governorate on 10 May (AFP, 10/05/2015). On 28 April, eight IDPs were reportedly killed in Baghdad, raising concerns over growing anti-IDP sentiment due to fears of IS infiltration (OCHA, 05/05/2015).

Diyala: An IS attack on a Shi'ite mosque in Baladruz district killed 19 and wounded 15 on 8 May (AFP, 08/05/2015).

Kirkuk: Peshmerga forces began operation to dislodge IS from areas of southwestern Kirkuk in February; by 18 March, Peshmerga and Popular Mobilisation forces had retaken Bashir and surrounding villages (ISW, 18/03/2015). Both forces, with the support of ISF, are planning an operation in Al Hawija in the coming months. This cooperation is significant, as visible tensions between Kurdish and Shi'ite rivals over control of Kirkuk city are raising fears that IS will exploit the divisions to advance (ISW, 13/03/2015; Ekurd Daily, 17/02/2015; The Daily Beast, 17/02/2015).

Nineva: IS continues to carry out security operations south of Mosul, to control tribal resistance and safeguard one of its most important areas of control.

Salah al Din: On 12 April, IS launched three suicide attacks on Baiji oil refinery, the fiercest since ISF recaptured the area in November. Clashes were accelerating as of 5 May, as IS cut off supply routes and occupied positions within the facility (ISW, 08/05/2015). As of 31 March, Iraqi forces and supporters had reportedly recaptured Albu Ajil, Tal Ksaiba, Al Alam, Al Dour, and Tikrit from IS (local media, 31/03/2015; WSJ, 13/02/2015; Al Jazeera, 08/03/2015). Tensions then rose between government forces and allied militias (Reuters, 04/04/2015).

Humanitarian Context and Needs

As of end March, 8.3 million people are estimated to be in urgent need of humanitarian assistance, including 3.85 million children, compared to 5.2 and 2.6 million, respectively, reported at end February (UNICEF, 31/03/2015; 28/02/2015). As of 5 May, Iraq's 2015 appeal is only 8% funded, leading to serious response cutbacks, particularly affecting the food, health and education sectors (OCHA, 05/05/2015).

Access

Around 2.2 million people in need of emergency assistance are beyond the reach of aid agencies, and access to the estimated 3.6 million people in areas under control of IS and affiliated armed groups is limited (ECHO, 12/12/2014). Several INGOs have suspended activities in IS-controlled areas, or provide emergency assistance through local partners. High insecurity and unexploded ordnance (UXO) also hinders access, as do long delays in obtaining clearance from Iraqi authorities (OCHA, 05/12/2014).

Border crossings: The Ibrahim Khalil border crossing has been closed to Syrians from Kobane since 2 March; most refugees have entered via the Peshkabour crossing (UNHCR, 15/03/2015). Insecurity prevents most civilian movement at the IS-controlled Al Qa'im and Al Waleed crossings, as well as at Rabia (Reuters, 23/11/2014; UNHCR, 28/02/2015; 15/01/2015).

IDP movement restrictions: Over 30% of IDPs are forced to stay within their governorate, due to movement restrictions imposed by neighbouring governorates; restrictions have been reported in Baghdad, Salah al Din, and Anbar (IOM, 15/01/2014; Protection Cluster, 15/01/2015). Access to and in KR-I remains challenging for certain IDPs, particularly those of Arab ethnicity (UNHCR/Protection Cluster, 28/02/2015; OCHA, 23/01/2015).

Anbar remains largely inaccessible. One-fifth of Falluja’s population was left in the city in January, and prevented from leaving (ISW, 18/03/2015; REACH, 27/01/2015). IS checkpoints have proliferated in Hit district, preventing civilian movements outside the city
The three main roads linking Haditha to other cities in Anbar are closed (OCHA, 23/03/2015). Access to new IDPs from Ramadi in Habbaniyah, Kahlidiyah district, has been very limited due to insecurity (OCHA, 17/05/2015). Control of the roads toward Al Baghdaedi continues to shift between ISF and IS, which has delayed transportation of food and medical supplies to both Al Baghdaedi sub-district and Haditha district (OCHA, 28/04/2015). Restricted access into Baghdad, Babylon, Najaf, Wasit, Sulaymaniyah and Kerbala has been reported for IDPs from Anbar; IDPs were asked to provide a sponsor for their admission into Baghdad from Bzabz bridge (OCHA, 17/05/2015; 22/04/2015; 21/04/2015).

**Displacement**

At early April, there are 2.67 million IDPs, 247,860 Syrian refugees, and 1.5 million people in need of assistance in host communities.

**IDPs**

As of 25 April, more than 2.8 million IDPs are in 3,387 locations in Iraq. 31% are in KR-I (868,960) including 452,496 in Duhok and 247,878 in Erbil. Anbar hosts 422,586 IDPs, Kirkuk 375,120, and Baghdad 412,200. 8% are in 30 IDP camps (mostly in KR-I), 27% in critical shelter arrangements (mostly in Duhok and Nineva), and 65% in private settings. Priority needs are for shelter, NFIs, income, and food support (IOM, 25/04/2015; 26/04/2015). The number and spread of IDPs pose a major challenge to needs assessment and assistance (IOM, 02/12/2014).

**Anbar:** More than 42,840 people fled fighting in Ramadi over 16–17 May, to Falluja and Kahlidiyah districts (OCHA, 17/05/2015). 133,100 had already been displaced by fighting around Ramadi over 8–28 April, to 15 governorates, including 62% to Baghdad and 18% within Anbar. Priority needs are WASH, food, and NFIs (IOM, 25/04/2015). Nearly 47,260 people were displaced by fighting in Karmah district in early May: 94% to Fallujah, and 6% to Abu Ghraib in Baghdad (OCHA, 05/05/2015).

**Erbil:** 150 Sunni IDP families originally displaced from Anbar are reportedly arriving in Shqalawa district from Baghdad each week, due to insecurity. The majority live in poor conditions, mostly in unfinished buildings (OCHA, 03/04/2015).

**Salah al Din:** 1,300 people have been displaced from Baiji to al Alam subdistrict due to military operations, and are in urgent need of food and NFIs (OCHA, 12/05/2015).

Nearly 30,000 people fled operations between ISF and IS in Tikrit in March for areas in and around Samarra. The majority are living in 127 collective shelters. Priority needs are for food, shelter, health, and WASH (ECHO, 11/03/2015).

The humanitarian situation for IDPs in Najaf, Karbala, Babel, Qadissiya, and Wassit in public buildings or collective shelters, with significant food, WASH, and livelihood needs, is also critical (WFP, 27/01/2015; REACH, 27/01/2015).

**IDP Returnees**

As of 8 May, around 14,330 IDPs have reportedly returned to Ramadi district in Anbar, and 35,000 to the rest of the province. One reason for the returns is lack of sponsor to enter Baghdad. Families lack basic services and feel unsafe (OCHA, 12/05/2015; 08/05/2015; 05/05/2015).

Around 116,850 IDPs returned to their areas of origin over 26 March–28 April, including 37% to Diyala, 26% to Salah al Din and 26% to Nineva. 19% returned to unfinished or abandoned buildings (IOM, 25/04/2015). Returnees in Diyala are in need of legal and basic services support (UNHCR, 15/04/2015).

Heavily disrupted basic services and infrastructure, property destruction, mines, IEDs, insecurity, and lost documentation all increase the risks for returnees (UNHCR, 15/04/2015).

**Refugees in Iraq**

As of 30 April, 248,370 Syrian refugees were registered in Iraq; 43% are women and 41.5% children. KR-I hosts an estimated 97%, with nearly 110,380 in Erbil and 100,050 in Duhok; 4,520 were last known to be in Anbar and 1,310 in Nineva (UNHCR, 30/04/2015). Around 33,810 Syrian refugees have arrived in KR-I from Kobane since 25 September (UNHCR, 15/03/2015).

37.5% of refugees live in nine camps; over half are in Domiz camp in Duhok (47,940), 10,060 in Kawergosk and 9,750 in Darashakran in Erbil (UNHCR, 30/04/2015). The number of Syrian refugees in Al Obaidy camp in IS-controlled Al Qa’im in Anbar significantly decreased January–March, to 851; understanding the trend is difficult due to access constraints (UNHCR, 15/03/2015, 04/03/2015).

More than 37,660 Syrian refugees returned to Syria over January 2014–March 2015. Reasons for return include high living cost in the KR-I, lack of job opportunities and family reunification (UNHCR, 15/04/2015; 31/12/2014).

There are also 41,700 non-Syrian refugees (UNHCR, 23/04/2015).

**Iraqi Refugees in Neighbouring Countries**

As of end 2014, there were around 254,000 Iraqi refugees in neighbouring countries, including 200,000 in Turkey, 43,000 in Jordan (the Government estimated 58,000), 8,700 in Lebanon, and over 3,000 in Yemen (PI, 07/01/2015, UNHCR, 01/2015).

**Food Security**
2.8 million people urgently need food assistance. Needs are particularly high, especially for IDPs, in Anbar (Al Baghdadi, Hit, and Haditha districts), Salah al Din (Tikrit, Baiji and Samarra), Kirkuk, Diyala, Nineawa, and Baghdad governorates. Food supply needs also persist for IDPs in the southern governorates of Qadissiya (Diwaniya district), Najaf, Kerbala, Thi-Qar and Missan (OCHA, 12/05/2015; 05/05/2015).

### Agriculture

Many farmers and rural households have abandoned their fields (FAO, 11/2014). Some 120,000 farmers in host communities need agricultural inputs for the winter planting season (OCHA, 06/02/2015). IS controls major wheat storage silos in Nineawa and Salah al Din (FAO 10/02/2015). The prospects for the 2015 winter crop are uncertain in conflict-affected parts of Anbar, Salah Al Din, and Diyala (WFIP, 11/03/2015).

**Refugees**: Reduced access to basic feed is posing a significant risk to refugees’ livestock, especially in Nineawa and Dahuk (FAO, 10/02/2015; UNHCR, 18/02/2015).

### Livelihoods

800,000 people are in need of livelihood support in Iraq (UN, 18/02/2015). The need for livelihood support is increasing as IDPs’ financial conditions are deteriorating, and unemployment is rising in IS-controlled areas (UNHCR, 15/03/2015; OCHA, 02/03/2015). In conflict-affected areas, casual labour opportunities are limited and wage rates are low (WFIP, 11/03/2015). KR-I’s poverty rate increased from 3.5% to 8.1% between 2013 and 2014. GDP growth in Iraq declined by five percentage points to 3% in 2014 (World Bank/Government, 12/02/2015).

In Anbar, Diyala, and Nineawa, purchasing power has fallen by a quarter since February. Food prices are high in Anbar, Nineawa, Kirkuk, Salah al Din, and Dahuk due to conflict and blocked supply lines (WFIP, 08/04/2015; 03/2015). In Salah al Din, rice and flour prices have doubled, and increased fivefold in some areas (WFIP, 11/03/2015). The conflict in Anbar has dramatically affected agricultural livelihoods.

**Refugees**: Refugees resort to a rising range of negative coping mechanisms in Dahuk due to high food prices (UNHCR, 15/04/2015). The ability to find sustainable job opportunities is still severely limited, and hampered by competition. As of February, only 5% of refugees targeted for access to wage employment in 2015 had been reached (DRC/UNDP, 28/02/2015).

### Health and Nutrition

5.2 million people need health support in Iraq (WHO, 16/03/2015). Acute diarrhoea, acute respiratory infections, and scabies remain a leading cause of morbidity among refugees and IDPs (Government/WHO, 29/03/2015).

A number of health facilities have been damaged by bombing and shelling. None of the three hospitals in Tikrit, Salah al Din, are functioning; in Kirkuk, some 23% of health facilities are not functioning (WHO, 27/04/2015). Recurrent shortages of essential medicines and other supplies remain a challenge, especially in Anbar, Salah al Din, and Nineawa (WHO, 27/04/2015). Difficulties in import and clearing of supplies through customs are reported (OCHA, 23/03/2015). Health professionals are in short supply in KR-I and conflict areas, while insecurity hampers access to healthcare in some areas (WHO, 16/03/2015). The influx of under-vaccinated Syrian refugees into KR-I also increases health risks (WHO, 11/2014).

Limited or unavailable treatment for tuberculosis, leishmaniasis, and hepatitis are major concerns in Salah al Din and Kirkuk (WHO, 16/03/2015).

**Anbar**: Ramadi’s main hospital came under IS control on 16 May (OCHA, 17/05/2015). The city hospital in Hit district is also reportedly no longer accessible for civilians (OCHA, 05/05/2015). Critical shortages of essential medicines are reported by functioning health structures (ECHO, 16/02/2015). Shortages of fuel affecting healthcare delivery have been reported in one hospital in Anbar, while contact has been lost with facilities in western Anbar (WHO, 16/03/2015). Increased acute illnesses and chronic diseases are reported from Al Baghdadi district, while health concerns are rising in Habanniya in Anbar due to lack of reproductive health services and safe drinking water (OCHA, 15/05/2015; 05/05/2015).

**Erbil**: Handicap International have interrupted transportation services for people with chronic diseases (OCHA, 21/04/2015).

**Mosul**: Only two units of the main hospital remain functional, staffing levels are down to 30–50%, and severe medicine shortages have been reported (AFP, 12/2014).

**Sulaymaniya**: Overcrowding in Arbat IDP camp has reportedly led to referrals to medical facilities in Sulaymaniya city, putting additional pressure on the health infrastructure (OCHA, 23/03/2015).

**Refugees**: 20% of the non-camp population has difficulty accessing health services, due to cost and perceived availability (WHO/UNHCR, 28/02/2015). Access to specialised primary services, including mental healthcare and control of communicable diseases, remain priorities in camps (WHO/UNHCR, 31/03/2015).

### WASH

Five million people need WASH support, while many essential operations face suspension due to funding constraints (UNHCR, 15/03/2015; OCHA, 28/02/2015). Access to safe water is a critical problem in areas affected by conflict or controlled by armed groups. Power cuts, disruption of supply routes, shortage of chlorine, and broken pipelines have left communities without safe water (WHO, 01/02/2015). IDP sites in Baghdad, Anbar, and Salah al Din, as well as in Babylon and Najaf, urgently need WASH support (OCHA, 28/04/2015).

**Refugees**: Drainage, waste disposal and water quality remain pressing issues in Darashakran, Akre, Basirma, and Domiz camps (UNHCR, 15/04/2015). In Basirma, the latrine ratio is 27:1, while garbage collection remains an issue in camps in Erbil (UNHCR, 31/03/2015).
Shelter and NFIs

Around 1.7 million people require shelter and NFI support, mainly in non-camp settings in central and southern Iraq; IDPs in informal, unmanaged settlements are of highest concern (UNHCR/Shelter Cluster, 02/05/2015).

Most camp facilities and services do not meet minimum Sphere standards (REACH 31/10/2014). Arbat IDP camp in Sulaymaniyah is overcapacity and access to basic services is of major concern, as it hosts 19,500 individuals instead of the planned 7,160 (OCHA, 02/03/2015; CCCM, 01/03/2015). Overcrowded Laylan camp in Kirkuk also needs support (OCHA, 03/04/2015). Eleven camps are under construction for an additional capacity of 384,235 IDPs (CCCM, 02/03/2015).

Many IDPs in Ninewa reportedly live in critical shelter conditions (OCHA, 05/05/2015). 75% of returnee houses in Al Alam in Salah al Din have been demolished (OCHA, 27/03/2015).

Refugees: 20% of refugees live in inadequate dwellings in Domiz camp (UNHCR, 31/12/2014). Basirma, Kawergosk, Akre and Domiz camps’ capacities are exhausted; overcrowding in camps in Erbil is an increasing concern (Government/UNHCR, 31/03/2015; UNHCR, 15/04/2015). In Sulaymaniyah, refugees renting houses are facing eviction due to the pressure on accommodation (UNHCR, 15/03/2015).

Education

65% of school-aged IDPs across Iraq are out of school (1.7 million children); IDP children residing among host communities are most affected (OCHA, 05/05/2015; 21/04/2015). Over 500 schools, including 376 in Anbar, remain occupied by IDPs, and an estimated 130 by the military, affecting 39,000 children.

Refugees: 61% of school-aged refugee children in camps are attending school, compared to 43% of those out of camps (UNICEF/Save the Children, 31/03/2015). Challenges include limited capacity in schools with an Arabic curriculum, shortages of Syrian teachers, increasing schooling demand, and insecurity (UNHCR, 31/12/2014; 12/02/2015). Syrian refugee teachers have not received salaries since the start of 2015, due to the KR-I’s limited budget (UNHCR, 15/04/2015).

Protection

5.2 million people are in need of protection support (OCHA, 28/02/2015). Widespread abuses committed by IS, including targeted attacks, killings, torture, rape and sexual slavery, forced religious conversion, and child conscription, may amount to war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide. Sharia courts have been established in IS-controlled territories, carrying out extreme punishments against men, women, and children (UN, 19/03/2015; 20/01/2015).

Violations allegedly carried out by ISF and associated militias during their counter-offensives against IS, including killings, torture and abductions, also amount to war crimes. Looting and human rights violations have also reportedly been committed (Reuters, 04/04/2015; 21/03/2015; Amnesty, 02/04/2015).

Eviction

An increase in detention of IDPs is reported, due to growing mistrust from local authorities and communities (OCHA, 19/12/2014).

Eviction concerns remain for urban families in Kirkuk, where arrests and evictions have been reported (UNHCR, 15/03/2015; OCHA, 27/03/2015).

Documentation

Around 10% of IDPs have no documentation, which is a prerequisite for obtaining residency permits and difficult to obtain outside a person’s area of origin. Up to 50% of displaced families report that at least one family member is missing one or more civil documents (UNHCR/Protection Cluster, 28/02/2015).

Refugees: Refugees are in need of targeted legal responses and services including registration and documentation. Residency in urban areas is reportedly being denied to Syrian asylum-seekers lacking original ID documents (UNFPA, 31/03/2015; Protection Cluster 15/01/2015).

SGBV

Accurate numbers of women and girls affected by abuses across Iraq are hard to obtain. Reports show an increase in sexual violence, abductions, trafficking, and forced recruitment towards women. In particular, IS reportedly carried out systematic sexual violence against Yezidi women and girls in northern Iraq (HRW, 15/04/2015). Due to stigmatisation, many survivors are reluctant to seek assistance (UNAMI, 08/03/2015).

Child Protection

Around 1.3 million children are internally displaced in Iraq, while 561,000 live in areas under IS and affiliated armed groups’ control (OCHA, 28/04/2015). Concerning issues include harmful practices targeting girls, discrimination of children from ethnic minorities, and children born of rape, who risk being stateless (UN, 07/05/2015; OHCHR, 22/01/2015). IS has reportedly sold children as sex slaves, using minors as suicide bombers, and providing military training to schoolchildren in Syria and Iraq (OCHA, 06/02/2015; Radio Liberty, 10/2014).

ERW and Mines

Iraq is heavily mined, with up to 1,838m² of contaminated territory; IS is reportedly planting more (Landmine Monitor/ICBL, IRIN, 06/11/2014).

Updated: 18/05/2015

SYRIA DISPLACEMENT, CIVIL WAR

For more information, see the SNAP project’s latest reports.
**Political Context**

A new round of Russia-mediated peace talks started on 6 April. The National Coalition did not participate (Al Jazeera, 06/04/2015). On 27 March, main opposition parties inside Syria, Building the Syrian State Party and National Coordination Committee for Democratic Change (NCCDC) announced formal participation in the Russia-peace talks (AFP, 27/03/2015).

On 4 May, the Geneva III conference began. UN envoy de Mistura will hold separate consultations the Syrian Government, some opposition groups, and regional powers such as Turkey and Iran. Opposition groups have criticised the invitation to Iran, which they consider signals that de Mistura is too close to the Government (BBC, 05/05/2015).

**Security Context**

Widespread conflict and high levels of violence continue, including indiscriminate aerial bombing by government forces and indiscriminate shelling by armed opposition (UNSC 21/11/2014). High frequency conflict locations are particularly Aleppo, Idleb, Damascus, Rural Damascus, Quneitra, and Dar’a governorates (SOHR in SNAP, 03/2015). Central governorates have witnessed an increase in airstrikes and the use of barrel bombs, especially Rural Damascus.

In 2014, 76,000 people were killed in the conflict, the highest toll since the war began. 18,000 civilians, including at least 3,500 children, were among the victims (SOHR, 02/01/2014). At least 6,550 civilians died during airstrikes, half of them in Aleppo. More than 220,000 people have died since fighting began in March 2011 and more than one million people have been wounded or suffered permanent disabilities (SOHR, 02/12/2014, 07/02/2015, UNICEF, 03/2015).

**Stakeholders**

**Government forces:** Government forces have control of several areas near Aleppo, in and around Homs city, and several areas in the Qalamoun region in Rural Damascus. Government forces control As-Sweida governorate, Tartous, parts of Dar’a and Lattakia, several areas in Idleb, and positions in predominantly IS or Kurdish controlled areas in Al Hasakeh. Increased Iranian involvement in generating irregular forces to augment pro-Government ranks appears to be fraying government command-and-control structures and challenging direct Syrian state control (ISW, 24/03/2015).

**Islamic State** (IS, formerly the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant) declared an Islamic caliphate on 30 June, defining the group's territory as running from northern Syria to the Iraqi province of Diyala, northeast of Baghdad. IS has been in full control of Ar-Raqqa governorate, its stronghold in Syria, since October 2014. It holds significant swathes of...
Democracy Union Party (PYD) and People’s Protection Units (YPG): Syrian Kurds, repressed by the current Syrian Government, have been in de facto control of Kurdish zones in the north since Government forces withdrew mid-2012. Kurdish leaders from the PYD formed an armed wing, the YPG, aiming to secure control over predominantly ethnic Kurdish areas in northern and eastern Syria (ISW, 19/09/2014). Media has reported the YPG has 65,000 fighters (Today’s Zaman, 04/01/2015).

Jabhat al Nusra (JAN), linked to Al Qaeda, is increasingly consolidating its control in the northwest of Syria, previously held by the collapsing moderate opposition. JAN has turned against other opposition factions, which are considered mainstays of the Free Syrian Army (FSA). In contrast, mainstream Islamist groups have begun to strengthen relations with JAN. The dissolution of the Hazm Movement in western Aleppo governorate cements JAN’s gains in the area (ISW, 02/03/2015).

Opposition alliances: The Sham Front, a military command made up of five major factions, including Ahrar al Sham, Jaysh al Mujahideen, and Harakat Nour al Din al Zenki, was dissolved on 14 April (ISW, 30/12/2014). On 26 April, Ahrar al Sham, Jaysh al Islam, and another Aleppo-based opposition groups announced the formation of the ‘Conquest of Aleppo’ Operations Room in Aleppo city (ISW, 28/04/2015).

Christian militias: Christian militias in northeastern Syria, in alliance with Kurdish forces and other armed opposition groups, are attempting to counter IS advances. Reportedly, they number up to 450 (The Guardian, 03/03/2015).

International intervention: As part of a multinational campaign against Islamist militant groups, a US-led coalition began airstrikes on IS and JAN military installations in mid-September. In early February, following IS’s execution of a Jordanian captive, Jordan carried out 56 airstrikes on IS targets in three days (BBC, 08/02/2015). More than 2,000 people have been killed by coalition airstrikes since the beginning of the offensive, the vast majority of them IS fighters, according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights (SOHR, 23/03/2015). Increasing Iranian involvement may potentially serve their larger strategic objectives by positioning Iranian forces closer to the disputed Israeli-controlled Golan Heights (ISW, 11/02/2015; 10/03/2015).

Conflict developments:

IS has come under pressure on four fronts in Syria (ISW, 17/03/2015). The YPG, supported by other armed groups, and coalition airstrikes have considerably challenged IS in the north (ISW, 02/03/2015). The group appears to have shifted the main effort of its military campaign to target the Government in central Syria (ISW, 24/03/2015).

Over 1–12 April, the Government carried out almost 1,500 airstrikes, killing 183 civilians and injuring more than 1,300 people (SOHR, 13/04/2015).

JAN and other Islamist and jihadist groups are increasingly coordinated in northern Syria. The increasingly Islamist and jihadist composition of militant ranks in northern Syria strengthens JAN’s position in northern Syria. The fall of Jisr al Shughur to JAN and allied forces is a key indicator of the Government’s inability to defend terrain against increasingly coordinated anti-Assad forces without the assistance of Iranian proxies such as Hezbollah (ISW, 26/04/2015).

Aleppo: On 30 April, US coalition airstrikes on Ber Mahli village near Seren killed 64 civilians (SOHR, 04/05/2015). Clashes between IS and regime forces continue in north Aleppo (SOHR, 07/04/2015). Kurdish forces have recaptured the Kobane city area and, backed by Ar-Raqqa armed groups including Shams al Shama and Jabhat al Akrad, have gained control over 242 villages around Kobane (SOHR, 19/02/2015).

On 13 April, JAN led an assault on an intelligence base in Aleppo city, and clashed with government forces. Government attacks on civilian infrastructure in the city forced the closure of schools (AFP, 13/04/2015). Aleppo city saw heavy clashes between opposition and government forces in early March, and high casualties on both sides (BBC, 04/03/2015; AFP, 05/03/2015).

Ar-Raqqa: Kurdish forces made gains against IS, taking over three villages near Ain Issa on 12 April, a town less than 60km from Ar-Raqqa city. Over two days, Kurdish forces took seven villages from IS (AFP, 12/04/2015; SOHR, 12/04/2015).

Damascus: Large parts of Yarmouk Palestinian refugee camp were seized by IS on 5 April. Government forces have also reportedly shelled the camp and dropped barrel bombs on it, according to the SOHR (AFP, 05/04/2015; UN, 29/04/2015). As of 15 April, IS had largely withdrawn from Yarmouk, after expelling their main rival group, Hamas-linked Al Maqdis. JAN is now the main group inside the camp (Reuters, 15/04/2015).

Al Hasakeh: Clashes continue between YPG and IS in the Tal Tamr countryside (SOHR, 01/05/2015). Following a joint YPG and Syrian Military Council offensive on IS positions, IS began an offensive on Assyrian positions in February (Long War Journal, 24/02/2015; AFP, 07/03/2015). On 11 April, YPG forces pushed back IS from Tal Tamr town (AFP, 12/04/2015).

Deir-ez-Zor: In March, pro-government forces made their first attack deep into IS-controlled Deir-ez-Zor countryside since IS’s occupation of the province in July 2014 (ISW, 10/03/2015). IS made minor advances in government-controlled areas of Deir-ez-Zor city in January (OCHA, 01/2015; SOHR, 12/2014; SOHR, 06/2015).

Idleb: On 25 April, JAN and other militant groups seized Jisr Al Shughur, one of the Government’s last strongholds in Idlib governorate. The city has since been targeted by at least 20 airstrikes (AFP, 26/04/2015). Over 7–14 April, fighting around Mastumeh was particularly fierce, impacting the movement of civilians southward and putting at high risk the only route available for humanitarian deliveries to government-controlled areas in Idlib from within Syria. 1,500 IDPs were injured (OCHA, 14/04/215). According to community sources, at least two schools have been hit by aerial bombardments; one was being used as a collective shelter for IDPs, many of whom were reportedly killed (OCHA, 08/04/2015).
JAN and Ahrar Al Sham, backed by other opposition groups, seized Idleb city on 29 March (ISW, 24/03/2015; AFP, 29/03/2015; Syria Comment). The week before, a chlorine gas attack in the opposition-controlled town of Sarmin killed six people and poisoned a further 70. Helicopters were seen dropping barrels (MSF, 18/03/2015).

Rural Damascus: The Syrian Government targeted the town of Maydaa on 3 May. Maydaa buffers a crucial opposition supply line into the partly besieged Eastern Ghouta suburbs of Damascus. Clashes are reportedly ongoing in the area (ISW, 04/05/2015).

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Some 12.2 million people are in urgent need of humanitarian assistance inside Syria, including 5.6 million children. The humanitarian situation appears most critical in the governorates of Aleppo, Ar-Raqqa, Rural Damascus, and Deir-ez-Zor (SNAP, 28/01/2015).

Parties to the conflict continue to target public infrastructure and facilities. Water cuts in Aleppo, rural Damascus, Deir-ez-Zor, Ar-Raqqa, and Idlib are frequent and deliberate (UNICEF, 15/02/2015). Syria experienced severe drought conditions in 2014, impacting the availability of drinkable water and the health status of the population, as well as reducing agricultural output and local food production. 83% of lights in Syria have gone out since the beginning of the conflict, indicating the impact on infrastructure and supplies (Catholic Agency for Overseas Development, Islamic Relief, et al., 16/03/2015).

The UN’s response efforts are chronically underfunded: As of 30 March, 90% of the Strategic Response Plan for 2015 has not been funded (OCHA, 07/04/2015).

Access

4.8 million people are living in hard-to-reach areas, including up to two million children (UNICEF, 12/2014).

There is a trend of tit-for-tat blocking of access between IS and its opponents, making IS-controlled areas hard to reach, particularly from northern Al Hasakeh, underlining the importance of cross-border access (OCHA, 16/01/2015). Similarly, stakeholders do not allow assistance to reach people perceived to be affiliated with opposing parties, for example in government-controlled areas of Lattakia, Hama, and Idlib. Siege tactics are used by all actors in the conflict.

Security Incidents Involving Aid Workers

69 humanitarian workers have been killed in the conflict since March 2011. 27 UN staff (including 24 UNRWA staff) have been detained or are missing (UNSC 21/11/2014). Five aid workers were killed and three injured since the beginning of 2015 (Aid Worker Security, 20/04/2015).

Trapped and Hard-to-Reach Communities

440,000 civilians are besieged (OCHA, 21/04/2015). Since 1 February, IS has cut off access to government-controlled areas of Deir-ez-Zor, leaving an estimated 228,000 civilians under siege. Since then, minimal relief supplies have been airlifted into the city (OCHA, 21/04/2015). 212,000 people remain besieged in Nubul and Al Zahra in rural Aleppo; Eastern Ghouta, Daryya, and Moadamiyah in Rural Damascus; the Old City in Homs; and Yarmouk camp in Damascus (UNSC 21/11/2014; UNICEF, 12/2014).

January 2015 saw a 44% reduction in the amount of food delivered into Syria’s hard-to-reach areas compared to the previous month, primarily as the result of insecurity and delays in approvals (WFP, 04/03/2015).

Aleppo: February saw an increase in clashes on the fronts inside Aleppo city, especially on the Salamiyah and Sheikh Hilal roads that are used by the UN (UNFPA, 10/03/2015).

Ar-Raqqa: As of end January, persistent insecurity continued to render Ar-Raqqa governorate completely inaccessible (WFP, 04/03/2015). IS has closed the Syrian Arab Red Crescent and several small local charities, and appropriated warehouses and equipment. Several INGOs continue to operate cross-border into Ar-Raqqa (OCHA, 30/01/2015).

Damascus: At 6 April, a significant percentage of the 18,000 civilians in Yarmouk camp were in the area controlled by armed groups, according to UNRWA. There are no operational hospitals or medical facilities for the civilian population trapped inside the besieged camp (Save the Children, 07/04/2015; WHO, 10/04/2015). UNRWA has been unable to provide assistance to the camp since fighting broke out in early April (UNRWA, 26/04/2015).

Rural Damascus: It is estimated that close to a quarter of a million people in Ghouta are in urgent need of assistance (WFP, 04/03/2015). Over February–March, an escalation of violence and attacks were reported in several besieged locations of Eastern Ghouta (OCHA, 18/03/2015).

Deir-ez-Zor: IS has cut off access to government-controlled areas of Deir-ez-Zor since 1 February, leaving an estimated 228,000 civilians living under siege (OCHA, 21/04/2015). Volatile security conditions and the presence of armed groups along access routes have prevented WFP deliveries since May 2014 (WFP, 31/12/2014).

Homs: As of 21 April, three inter-agency convoys have reached Homs governorate (Talbiseh, Al Wa’er and Ar-Rastan). The last time that the city of Ar-Rastan was reached was in March 2014 (OCHA, 21/04/2015). Under partial siege since October 2013, over half of Al Waer’s 350,000 residents are IDPs, who are mostly living in substandard accommodation (WFP, 22/10/2014).

Idlib: As of 14 April, lack of access due to insecurity continues to significantly hamper tracking of population movement, safe registration of IDPs, identification of lifesaving needs and provision of humanitarian assistance (OCHA, 14/04/2015). Aid delivery to Idlib city was possible in March (UNHCR, 26/03/2015).

Border Restrictions

Border closures or tight restrictions by neighbouring countries are dissuading people in life-threatening situations from seeking refuge abroad. Humanitarians have voiced concern...
over the inconsistent application of regulations at border crossings. Palestinian refugees are particularly affected by closed borders and forced returns from neighbouring countries (UN 24/11/2014).

**Turkey:** Only Bab al Hawa and Bab al Salam border crossings are open as of 24 April (OCHA, 24/04/2015). Restrictions since 1 January 2015 mean that refugees crossing between Turkey and Syria can only spend three out of every six months in Turkey. Those without a valid passport or travel document will be turned back (IRIN, 14/01/2015).

**Displacement**

**IDPs**

There are 7.6 million IDPs within Syria; 50% are children (OCHA 25/11/2014). There are 147 IDP camps in northern Syria, and 175,520 IDPs are sheltering in camp settlements (OCHA, 30/01/2015).

1,755,000 people are displaced in Aleppo; 1,388,000 in Rural Damascus; 918,000 in Idleb; 584,000 in Lattakia; 493,000 in Homs; 464,000 in Deir-ez-Zor; 453,000 in Hama; 437,000 in Damascus; 391,000 in Dar’a; 249,000 in Al-Hasakeh; 202,000 in Tartous; 168,000 in Ar-Raqqa; 73,000 in As-Sweida; and 57,000 in Quneitra (OCHA, 02/04/2015).

Multiple displacement has increased, due to changed conflict dynamics, ongoing violence, the depleted capacity of host families, depletion of savings, and the search for better livelihoods (MSNA 30/10/2014; OCHA/REACH 30/10/2014).

In Idleb, at least 101,800 people have reportedly been displaced by fighting since late March, including 20,000 to Government-controlled areas, mainly southern and western Idleb governorate and rural Hama, and almost 81,200 into areas controlled by armed groups. Some sources report higher figures. 20,000 predominantly Shia population in Foah and Kefraya towns in Idleb are cut off and surrounded (OCHA, 08/04/2015).

**Refugees**

**Palestinian refugees in Syria:** There are 560,000 Palestine refugees (OCHA, 21/04/2015). 470,000 Palestine refugees registered with UNRWA are in need of assistance (UNRWA, 21/04/2015). Over 50% have been displaced within Syria (UNRWA 28/10/2014).

**Iraqi refugees:** There are an estimated 29,000 Iraqi refugees in Syria (UNHCR 25/11/2014).

**Syrian Refugees in Neighbouring Countries**

3,988,857 Syrians are registered or waiting to register as refugees outside Syria as of 14 April (UNHCR, 14/04/2015). Children make up 51.6% of the refugee population.

**Turkey:** 1,758,092 registered refugees (UNHCR, 10/04/2015). The Government suspended pre-registration in October to focus on the full biometrical registration process (UNHCR, 05/01/2014).

**Lebanon:** 1,196,560 refugees (UNHCR 10/04/2015). Lebanon’s borders have been closed to Syrian refugees since 24 October. Since January, Syrians wanting to enter Lebanon must apply for a visa (BBC, 05/01/2015).

**Jordan:** 628,427 refugees (UNHCR 08/04/2015).

**Egypt:** 133,862 refugees (UNHCR 14/04/2015).

**Iraq:** 247,861 refugees (UNHCR 31/03/2015).

**PRS:** 42,000 have been recorded with UNRWA in Lebanon, 14,348 in Jordan (UNRWA, 02/03/2015) and 860 in Gaza. Around 4,000 are reportedly in Egypt (UNRWA 28/10/2014).

**Returnees**

Almost 30,000 IDPs returned to their areas of origin (mostly in Dar’a) in March (OCHA, 21/04/2015).

**Food Security**

9.8 million people require food, agriculture and livelihoods-related assistance, according to the Food Security and Livelihoods sector analysis. Of these, around 6.8 million people live in high priority districts and need critical food assistance (WFP, 26/03/2015). IDPs outside formal camps are most susceptible to food shortages. The most acute needs are reported in Aleppo, Dar’a, Quneitra, and Rural Damascus (MSNA, 10/2014).

Food dispatches continue to be hindered by worsening security, particularly in the northeast and south (WFP 25/11/2014). Only 304 of the 212,000 people who are besieged were reached with food in January (UN, 26/02/2015).

The food aid basket for 4.2 million Syrians was cut by 40% in October (AFP, 10/2014).

**Agriculture and Markets**

According to FAO estimates, Syria’s overall cereal production in 2014 was approximately 25% below total production in 2013 (FAO, 05/03/2015). Drought and conflict have both impacted production.

Since August 2014, the price of 1kg of rice has increased by 26%. Between August 2014 and February 2015, the average retail price of bread rose by approximately 33%, while the price of diesel rose by 92% (WFP, 28/02/2015). Since 2011, the average monthly price of wheat flour increased 197%; rice has gone up 403% (WFP, 31/01/2015).

**Livelihoods**

More than half the population lived in extreme poverty at the end of 2013. Unemployment is at 54% (3.39 million people) (Syrian Centre for Policy Research/UNDP, 19/10/2014). Gross domestic product has contracted by more than 40%, and exports have fallen by 90%. Oil production has dropped by 96% (World Bank/IMF/AFP, 02/12/2014). Official diesel prices increased by 102% from January 2014 to February 2015, while petrol prices increased by 30% over the same period (WFP, 27/02/2015).
Health and Nutrition

Over 2.4 million people are in need of health assistance, with highest numbers reported from Ar-Raqqa (627,600), Aleppo (475,270), and Al Hasakeh (356,200).

Diarrhoea is one of the main causes of death for children under 12 months old (IFRC, 24/07/2014). Tuberculosis, typhoid, hepatitis A and scabies have become endemic in northern Syria (AFP, 28/11/2014). In opposition-held Aleppo, these diseases, as well as cholera, are spreading, according to local doctors (Reuters, 08/01/2015).

Hepatitis A

Since the start of the conflict, some 200,000 Syrians have died from chronic illnesses due to lack of access to treatment and medicines. Hospitals are unable to cope with the demand for surgery, due partly to the increase in the number of injured – averaging 25,000 each month (PHR, 10/2014). The number of available health professionals has fallen to approximately 45% of 2011 levels and there are severe shortages of surgeons, anaesthesiologists, laboratory professionals, and female health professionals (WHO, 27/03/2015). Local production of medicines has been reduced by 70% and many lifesaving treatments are not available (WHO, 27/03/2015).

Only 43% of hospitals are fully functioning (UNICEF, 29/01/2015). 711 of 1,921 primary healthcare centres are out of service (Syrian Ministry of Health/UNFPA, 11/2014). Aleppo, Rural Damascus, Homs, Dar’a, and Deir-er-Zor have the highest number of non-functional public hospitals. As of end February, only four public hospitals remained operational in Aleppo governorate, and only 132 primary health care centres (WHO, 22/02/2015). Al Sakhour hospital in Aleppo has suspended all activities after being bombed on two consecutive days at end April. Shelling has seriously damaged medical services. Two medical facilities have been targeted since mid-April (MSF, 04/05/2015).

In Ar-Raqqa, no obstetric, gynaecological, or paediatric services are reportedly available for the 1.6 million people living there (PHR, 27/02/2015). Little to no mental health services are available (PHR, 27/02/2015).

In Idlib governorate, the escalation of conflict since 26 March has rendered all three Ministry of Health-run public hospitals in Idlib governorate either non-functional or inaccessible. All pharmaceutical warehouses have been destroyed (OCHA, 14/04/2015). Ishan hospital in Saraqab was damaged in an airstrike on 18 April, rendering it non-functional (OCHA, 22/04/2015).

Attacks on Health Workers and Facilities

Since 2011, Physicians for Human Rights has recorded the unlawful killing of 615 medical personnel and 242 illegal attacks on 187 medical facilities throughout the country. At least 36 of these attacks were carried out with barrel bombs. PHR has found that Government forces are responsible for 88% of attacks on medical facilities – including the 36 attacks with barrel bombs – and 97% of medical personnel deaths – including 141 deaths by torture and execution (PHR, 17/04/2015).

Health and Nutrition

Some 31,400 cases of hepatitis A were reported in 2014. Since January 2015, 1,000 have been recorded per week (Reuters, 24/02/2015). Hepatitis A is linked with lack of safe water and poor sanitation.

Mental Health

More than 350,000 individuals in Syria are estimated to suffer from severe forms of mental illness; over two million people suffer from mild to moderate problems such as anxiety and depression disorders, and a large percentage suffer from moderate to severe psychological/social distress (WHO/UNHCR, 19/10/2014).

Nutrition

In areas with high IDP concentration, 2.3% SAM – above the 2% crisis threshold – and 7.2% GAM rate has been reported (UNICEF, 21/10/2014). It is estimated that four million women and children are in need of preventative and curative nutrition assistance (UNICEF, 15/02/2015).

WASH

4.6 million people are in need of WASH assistance. Six out of ten governorates report major problems in the WASH sector.

The availability of safe water is at a third of pre-crisis levels (WHO, 27/03/2015). The reliability of urban piped water is severely reduced and the quality of drinking water cannot be guaranteed due to a lack of testing facilities. Fuel shortages also affect water supply (UNICEF, 15/02/2015). One-third of water treatment plants no longer function, and sewage treatment has halved (PHR, 10/2014; WHO/UNICEF, 22/07/2014).

Shelter and NFIs

1.6 million people are in need of shelter assistance (MSNA, 30/10/2014). 1.2 million houses have been damaged, 400,000 of which have been totally destroyed (UNHCR, 30/10/2014). Only IDPs in government-controlled areas receive shelter response, through collective shelter rehabilitation and private shelter upgrade (UNHCR, 20/11/2014).

Dara’a, Lattakia, and Quneitra have acute needs, followed very closely by Hama, Ar-Raqqa, Aleppo, Al Hasakeh and Rural Damascus. 40% of people identified in need of shelter are located in Aleppo governorate, as are 34% of people identified in need of NFI assistance (MSNA, 30/10/2014). Satellite imagery analysis indicated that fighting in Kobane affected 3,250 structures, destroying 1,200 (UNOSAT, 06/03/2015).

2.7 million people are in need of NFI assistance. The dispatch of non-food items (NFIs) has fallen significantly since April 2014 (MSNA, 30/10/2014).


**Education**

The estimated number of children enrolled in basic education increased from 2.9 million in the 2012/13 academic year to 3.6 million in 2014/15. Likewise, the gross enrolment ratio in basic education rose from 66% in 2012/13 to 79% in 2013/14 (UNICEF, 15/02/2015). In areas of active conflict for a prolonged period, like Aleppo, education enrolment is estimated to be around 6%. (Save the Children, 23/03/2015).

The primary reason for student drop-out is the need to work to support the family. Continued conflict and the recent closure of some schools in Ar-Raqqa and Deir-ez-Zor governorates and parts of rural Aleppo in Syria are believed to have disrupted education for 670,000 school-aged children. (Syrian Interim Government/OCHA, 07/11/2014). Around 90% of schools in Idlib city have stopped functioning due to violent conflict (OCHA, 14/04/2015).

In 2014 there were at least 68 attacks on schools across Syria, killing at least 160 children and injuring over 340 (UN, 06/01/2015). 4,000 Syrian schools have been destroyed, damaged, or used to house IDPs. 76 UNRWA schools – more than two-thirds – have become unusable.

**Protection**

Protection is a priority concern. Human and organ trafficking are reported (UNHCR 20/11/2014).

Non-state armed groups continue to commit violations, including summary executions. Ethnic and religious communities in IS-occupied areas have been targeted directly (UN Human Rights Council 11/2014). IS executed 1,429 people in Syria during June - November, the majority civilians (UN Human Rights Council, 14/11/2014; SOHR/AFP, 17/11/2014). On 21 February, it was reported that the Syrian Government had executed at least 48 people, including ten children – the families of opposition fighters – in Rityan village, north of Aleppo (AFP, 21/02/2015).

**Chemical Weapons**

There have been allegations of chlorine attacks. A chlorine gas attack in Idlib governorate, reportedly carried out by government forces, killed six and poisoned over 70 people in March 2015 (MSF, 18/03/2015). A chlorine gas attack was reported on the town of Kafr Zeta on 28 August (OPCW, 09/2014). An OPCW commission found confirmation that a toxic chemical was used in three villages of northern Syria earlier in 2014.

**Mines and ERW**

In 2013, there were 2,403 civilian casualties from landmines, victim-activated improvised explosive devices (IEDs), cluster munition remnants, and other explosive remnants of war (International Campaign to Ban Landmines/Cluster Munition Coalition, 19/11/2014). Large quantities of unexploded ordnance and many booby-trapped houses in the Eastern sector of Kobane city and the surrounding countryside are preventing return (OCHA, 17/02/2015). Reportedly, ten civilians have died and around 20 injured by mines in Kobane city (Geneva call, 26/02/2015).

**Abduction and Detention**

200,000 people are estimated to be in government detention, including 20,000 detainees who are unaccounted for (SOHR/HRW, 02/12/2014). 13,000 people have died in Government detention since March 2011, including more than 100 children, reportedly from torture (SOHR, 13/03/2015).

Some 7,000 government troops held by opposition forces are unaccounted for (SOHR, 07/2014). Another 1,500 IS, other opposition, and Kurdish fighters have been kidnapped during battles in the first half of 2014 (AFP, 07/2014).

IS are holding at least 50 civilians hostage after a raid on Mabujeh village, Hama governorate, at end March (AFP, 10/04/2015). On 24 February, IS abducted between 220 and 300 Assyrian Christians from Tal Tamer, Al Hasakeh governorate. By 2 March, 21 had been released. There are conflicting reports over whether they were released for ransom or following an IS “court” order (Al Jazeera, 02/03/2015).

**Sexual and Gender-based Violence**

IS has sought to exclude Syrian women and girls from public life. Forced marriage of girls to IS fighters and the selling of abducted girls into sexual slavery have been reported (UN Human Rights Council, 14/11/2014).

**Media**

Journalists and other media workers are systematically targeted.

**Yemen**

**COMPLEX, CONFLICT, FOOD INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT**

**LATEST DEVELOPMENTS**

**17 May:** The Saudi-led coalition resumed airstrikes over Aden as soon as the ceasefire ended (AFP).

**12-17 May:** Sporadic fighting continued during the ceasefire (AFP).
16 May: 545,719 people are estimated to have been displaced in Yemen between 26 March and 7 May (OCHA).

16 May: Over 1,820 people have been killed and 7,330 injured since conflict escalated in March (OCHA).

KEY CONCERNS
- 15.9 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance (OCHA, 28/12/2014).
- 10.6 million are food insecure, including 5 million severely food insecure (Comprehensive Food Security Survey 2014; WFP, 31/12/2014). Levels of food insecurity have doubled since 2009 (FAO, 06/2014).
- 8.6 million have no access to healthcare (OCHA, 09/10/2014).
- One million children under five are acutely malnourished; 280,000 are severely malnourished (OCHA, UNICEF 06/2014).
- 13.1 million do not have access to safe water and improved sanitation; 4.4 million lack access to adequate sanitation (OCHA, 09/10/2014). Open defecation remains the practice for more than 20% of the population (UNICEF 2014).
- More than 546,000 IDPs and 258,000 refugees in the country (OCHA, 16/05/2015).
- Extreme access constraints prevail in Hadramaut, Shabwah, and Marib governorates. The governorates with the highest severity of needs are Aden, Abyan, Amanat Al Asimah, Al Jawf, Sa’ada, Hajjah (OCHA, 22/12/2014).

OVERVIEW

The highest priority humanitarian needs include protection, food and nutrition assistance, access to healthcare, shelter – primarily for conflict-affected people, and provision of water and sanitation.

Yemen’s political transition has turned into armed conflict between Houthis from the north and the Government. Southern secessionists, Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) activity throughout the country, and recent Islamic State attacks compound the security and political challenges.

Instability and violence continue across the country, and attempts at political transition have been upended. In February 2015, the Shia Houthis dissolved Parliament and replaced the Government with a presidential council they claimed will fill the presidential vacuum for two years. The move was condemned as a coup by other parties and Yemen’s neighbours.

President Hadi fled to Yemen in February and called for troop mobilisation in the south (AFP, 21/02/2015). In March, members of the cabinet were released from almost two months of house arrest (NYT, 16/03/2015). On 25 March, Hadi fled Yemen for Saudi Arabia (Huffington Post, 25/04/2015).

On 12 April, President Hadi appointed for Prime Minister Khaled Bahah to Vice President, a move apparently aimed at improving the chances of a peaceful settlement (Reuters, 12/04/2015).

On 17 May, talks led by President Hadi began in Riyadh between various Yemeni parties. The Houthis are boycotting the conference (Al Jazeera, 17/05/2015). Houthis have demanded the complete cessation of coalition airstrikes and lifting of the naval blockade as conditions for UN-sponsored peace talks (AFP, 24/04/2015).

Members of the Southern Movement who represented the group at the National Dialogue Conference of 2013 and 2014 called for an end to hostilities and a return to dialogue on 7 April (Yemen Times, 07/04/2015). Various leaders of southern provinces had announced their secession following events in Sanaa at the beginning of the year (Reuters, 25/01/2015; Yemen Times, 19/10/2014; AFP, 01/01/2015).

Economic Crisis

Oil production represents over 70% of total government revenue. Production was suspended in the major oil-producing governorates of Shabwah and Hadramaut in January, and is likely to be disrupted in Marib (FEWSNET, 18/02/2015).

Oil revenues had already declined almost 30% between January 2013 and January 2014 (Yemen Central Bank, 02/2014). In July 2014, the Government increased the price of petrol by 60% and diesel by 95%. Observers have warned that the economy will continue to decline if the Government cannot protect pipelines. Attacks on oil pipelines are regularly reported (Al Jazeera).

Security Context

Conflict has escalated significantly since 23 March, affecting 19 of Yemen’s 22 governorates. As of 16 May, over 1,820 people have been killed and 7,330 injured since conflict escalated in March (OCHA, 16/05/2015). These numbers are expected to be higher, as many have not been accounted for (ECHO, 18/04/2015). A humanitarian pause was agreed by warring parties between 12–17 May, however sporadic fighting continued, and airstrikes resumed on 17 May (AFP, 17/05/2015).

Fighting is ongoing in Marib, Taizz, Al Dhalee, Al Bayda, Aden, Lahj and Abyan governorates. Street fighting persists in Abyan, Al Dhalee, Aden, and Lahij, between groups supporting members of the popular committees affiliated with the Houthis and local armed
groups (AFP, 17/05/2015).

On 21 April, Saudi Arabia announced the immediate end of Operation Decisive Storm, its airstrike campaign supported by a coalition, to be replaced with Operation Renewal of Hope, meant to introduce a shift to a political process (NYT, 26/04/2015). Near-daily airstrikes have continued (AFP, 01/05/2015). The airstrikes have hit 18 governorates since 26 March (OCHA, 13/04/2015).

Stakeholders

Pro-Hadi Forces

Hundreds of young men have been recruited since Hadi called for 20,000 new troops from the south (Yemen Times, 16/03/2015). On 19 April, 15,000 troops in Hadramaut province, on the border with Saudi Arabia, pledged allegiance to President Hadi. There are now ten divisions that back Hadi (Al Arabiya, 19/04/2015).

Houthis

The Houthis, also referred to as Ansarullah, are based in Sa’ada governorate Houthi control Sa’ada, Hajjah, Al Hudaydah, Al Mahwit, Amran, Sanaa, Al Jawf, Dhamar, and Ibb governorates. They occupied much of the capital in September 2014. Violence persisted despite a peace agreement in September, and an annex covering security and military conditions in other governorates witnessing violence (Yemen Times, 29/09/2014). The Houthis have taken up arms before, citing political, economic, and religious marginalisation (Al Jazeera, 16/11/2009). Certain factions in the deeply divided Yemeni army have allied themselves with the Houthis against President Hadi, including members of the former central security force, a unit seen as loyal to ousted president Ali Abdullah Saleh (Reuters, 12/03/2015; ABC, 23/03/2015).

Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) and Ansar al Sharia

AQAP, based in the south and east of the country, and backed by Sunni tribesmen, has fought to halt the Houthis’ advance (AFP, 20/10/2014). AQAP has expanded its presence in Hadramaut, and according to analysts, the Houthis advance has bolstered support for AQAP and Ansar al Sharia (Reuters, 09/11/2014). According to the national security service, there are around 1,000 Al Qaeda militants in Yemen from 11 Arab and non-Arab countries (AFP, 17/01/2015).

AQAP regularly targets army and security forces, foreigners for abduction, and oil pipelines. In late December and early January, AQAP targeted several members of the security forces, including in Al Bayda and Shabwah. Yemeni authorities blame AQAP for a campaign of targeted killings in which up to 350 senior army officers have died in the past three years (Reuters, 04/01/2014).

International Involvement

Saudi Arabia firmly backs President Hadi. UAE, Bahrain, Kuwait and Qatar are providing some of the 100 fighter jets (Washington Post 26/03/2015). Egypt, Jordan, and Sudan have said their forces are involved in the operation, with Sudan pledging ground troops as well as warplanes (Reuters 27/03/2015). The US Government stated it had authorised the provision of logistical and intelligence support to the Saudi Arabian coalition’s military intervention (Amnesty 26/03/2015).

Saudi Arabia has mobilised 150,000 troops (NBC 26/03/2015; IRIN 26/03/2015). Although 3 May, Saudi Arabia stated there were no non-Yemeni forces fighting in Yemen. It said it was retraining Yemeni troops, after 40–50 soldiers arrived in Aden (Reuters, 03/05/2015). On 4 May, approximately 120 soldiers of Yemeni descent arrived in Aden from UAE (Stratfor, 04/05/2015). Senegal will send 2,100 troops to Saudi Arabia for the Saudi-led ground invasion (Washington Post, 05/05/2015).

Iran has been accused of backing Houthi militants financially and materially, a claim the Iranian Government denies (Amnesty 26/03/2015). Iran temporarily deployed a war ship near Yemen (Huffington Post, 08/04/2015), but also presented a peace plan to the UN calling for a ceasefire and the formation of a unity government (AFP, 25/04/2015). An Iranian cargo ship under military escort is expected to reach Hudaydah port on 21 May, reportedly carrying aid and medical volunteers. A small number of US and European passengers are also thought to be on board. Iranian officials have stated that they will not allow Saudi-led forces to inspect the ship on arrival (Reuters, 17/05/2015).

Security Incidents and Conflict Developments

Cluster munitions have been used by the Saudi-led coalition in air strikes on Sa’ada governorate (Human Rights Watch, 03/05/2015). According to the coalition, over 2,000 air strikes have been carried out since the start of the campaign (AFP, 20/04/2015). Clashes and airstrikes have continued.

Sanaa: On 28 April, airstrikes damaged the runways of Sanaa airport (WFP, 29/04/2015). On 20 April, a Saudi airstrike on a missile depot killed 46 people, injured at least 300 more, and destroyed a large number of houses, according to officials (Los Angeles Times, 20/04/2015). On 26 March, 25 people, were killed in airstrikes. The crowded, low-income suburb of Bani Hewat near Sanaa International Airport was badly damaged (IRIN 26/03/2015).

On 20 March, three suicide attacks on mosques in Sanaa, targeting Shi’ite worshippers, killed 142 people and wounded at least 351. Islamic State claimed responsibility (AFP, 20/03/2015). The crowded, low-income suburb of Bani Hewat near Sanaa International Airport was badly damaged (IRIN 26/03/2015).

Aden: The Saudi-led coalition resumed airstrikes over Aden on 17 May (AFP, 17/05/2015). Intense fighting continues in several areas. There are reports of indiscriminate shelling of houses (OCHA, 19/04/2015; OCHA, 04/05/2015). On 19 April, forces loyal to Hadi regained control of part of the coastline that had been held by Houthi forces and Saleh loyalists (Al Jazeera, 19/04/2015). Health facilities, water and food supply are disrupted (ECHO, 07/04/2015).

Al Bayda: Even before the recent escalation of the conflict, fighting between Houthis and AQAP and affiliated tribes was ongoing. Clashes have involved attacks on schools and hospitals used by the warring parties (AFP, 17/10/2014; 20/10/2014; 08/11/2014).
Al Hudaydah: Multiple airstrikes have reportedly hit Hudaydah airport and the surrounding area in Hudaydah city (OCHA, 04/05/2015).

Abyan: On 9 March, AQAP militants overran the city of Mahfad, a former AQAP stronghold, and held it for eight hours before they were driven out by the Yemeni army (Gulf News, 10/03/2015).

Hajjah: On 30 March, an airstrike killed 45 people and wounded 65 in Mazraq refugee camp (Reuters, 30/03/2015).

Lahj: Lahj governorate was seized by Houthi militants on 25 March (Washington Post, 26/03/2015). In Al Hawtah, Lahj, clashes were reported near the Ibn Khaldoon hospital, health office and the Central Security Forces camp (OCHA, 19/04/2015). On 20 March, IS claimed responsibility for an attack that killed 29 police (ABC, 23/03/2015).

Marib: Loyalist troops shelled Houthi positions in the Sarwah district, with clashes around the country's main oil export pipeline (AFP, 25/04/2015). Sunni tribes, pro-Hadi security forces and Houthis are fighting, despite a ceasefire agreed in the Qania area on 25 March (Huffington Post, 12/04/2015; Yemen Times, 25/03/2015). According to tribal sources, upwards of 30,000 armed tribesmen are stationed in Sahil area (Yemen Times, 12/01/2015).

Sa’ada: As of 18 May, airstrikes, shelling, and clashes continued in Sa’ada City, Al Dhaheer and Razih districts, resulting in more casualties and displacement (Reuters, 18/05/2015). Sa’ada city has been experiencing indiscriminate aerial bombardment. Civilian infrastructure, including the post office, bank, main market area and phone network have been hit, and civilians have fled the city.

Taizz: Clashes between Houthi and pro-Hadi forces continued during the humanitarian ceasefire (17/05/2015). Houthi forces seized part of Taizz city and its military airbase in 23 March (BBC, 22/03/2015; ABC, 23/03/2015).

Humanitarian Context and Needs

An estimated 15.9 million people, over 60% of the population, are in need of humanitarian aid. Children under 18 years old represent 50% of people in need (OCHA, 05/03/2015).

Civilians’ private homes are being directly affected by airstrikes and armed clashes, particularly in the south (OCHA, 17/04/2015).

Access

No humanitarian assistance has been delivered to Al Dhalee (OCHA, 13/04/2015). Lifesaving services and supplies are no longer available for the people in Sa’ada, and the Government is unable to provide any assistance (OCHA, 24/04/2015). Humanitarian access to Aden, Lahj, and Taizz is intermittent as front lines shift (WFP, 29/04/2015). Due to access constraints in Abyan, no humanitarian aid can be transported from Aden to Abyan. In Al Dhalee, an estimated 9,000 households have been left with no assistance to date (OCHA, 19/04/2015).

Many aid agencies have suspended their activities and evacuated their staff (IRIN, 27/03/2015). It is extremely difficult to move within the country to evaluate needs and provide assistance (MSF, 01/04/2015). Most roads connecting Sanaa to Aden, Taizz, Al Dhalee, and Lahj are becoming gradually inaccessible (WFP, 27/04/2015).

The closure of airspace over Yemen is severely restricting air operations, as are other limitations in neighbouring airspace zones. As of 14 May, Sanaa and Hudaydah airports continue to be non-operational (Logistics Cluster, 14/05/2015).

The Yemeni government-in-exile has formally banned ships, including those carrying fuel and food, from entering the country’s waters without prior inspection (IRIN, 17/04/2015). As of 30 April, Hudaydah Port, Aden Oil Port, Saleef Port, Mokha Port and Mukalla Port are operating, whereas Balhaf Port, Malla Container Port, and Ras Isa Port are closed (Logistics Cluster, 30/04/2015).

The arms embargo on the Houthis has also impacted the supply of humanitarian relief (AFP, 02/05/2015).

Since violence escalated, three volunteers with the Yemen Red Crescent have been killed (OCHA, 07/04/2015).

Critical Infrastructure

The fuel shortage is creating challenges for the transportation of food, water, and medical supplies, in addition to the operation of water pumps and generators (ECHO, 14/05/2015). The price of fuel has reached USD 200 per gallon in Sanaa and USD 400 per gallon in Taizz (IMC, 28/04/2015). WFP has been forced to suspend food distributions in Al Hudaydah governorate due to fuel shortages (WFP, 29/04/2015).

Phone networks and internet have been disconnected in Al Dhalee (OCHA, 13/04/2015). Water processing plants in Sanaa city have closed (Logistics Cluster, 30/04/2015). The Marib central electricity network has been damaged, causing total disruption of the electricity supply to the city of Sanaa and most governorates (WHO, 13/04/2015; 27/04/2015). In Marib, the telecommunications network has been brought down (ECHO, 20/04/2015).

At least 64 public buildings have been destroyed either partially or completely by fighting (IRIN, 24/04/2015). Reports have also been received of damage to local markets, power stations, and WASH infrastructure in Aden, Hajjah and Sa’ada (OCHA, 17/04/2015).

Displacement

Several waves of conflict, lack of access, and the fluidity of displacement all make it extremely difficult to estimate new displacements and needs.

In 2015, an estimated 915,000 refugees and migrants will require multi-sector humanitarian assistance – an increase of 16% on 2014’s estimate (OCHA, 22/12/2014).

IDPs

An estimated 545,719 people became displaced in Yemen between 26 March and 7
May (OCHA, 16/05/2015). In mid-May, 100,000 people were displaced to Amran from Sa‘ada governorate over the course of three days (Yemen Times, 11/05/2015).

As of 4 May, local authorities in Aden reported that 98% of Khormaksar’s 62,870 residents had left the district. Remaining families are trapped and awaiting secure conditions to leave. The majority of the residents in Al Muafa district were also reported to be leaving. Families are fleeing to Al Mansura, Ash Shaikh Outhman, and Dar Sad districts, which are already reportedly experiencing strained resources and overcrowding.

As of 13 April, there were 59,690 IDPs in Hajjah; 29,290 in Amran; 18,650 in Saada; 8,650 in Abyan; 3,500 in Al Hudaydah; and 1,500 in Al Jawf. In Abyan, displaced included 1,640 people hosted in 15 schools (OCHA, 13/04/2015).

Refugees and Migrants

Around 800,000 refugees, asylum seekers, and migrants require humanitarian assistance. There are 257,645 registered refugees, most are Somalis (236,803); 5,934 are Ethiopians (Mixed Migration Secretariat, 28/02/2015). Over March, 3,359 mainly Ethiopian refugees, asylum seekers, and migrants arrived in Yemen via the Red Sea (Djibouti) (Mixed Migration Secretariat, 31/03/2015).

In 2014, nearly 91,600 refugees, asylum seekers, and migrants arrived in Yemen, a 40% increase compared to 2013, according to IOM. They have reported abduction, torture, physical assault, and rape as common forms of abuse (Mixed Migration Secretariat, 28/02/2015).

Somali refugees are living in precarious conditions either in the only refugee camp, Kharaz, or in urban areas. One million undocumented Ethiopian migrants also live in Yemen (ECHO, 27/08/2014: UNHCR, 12/2014, ECHO, 09/02/2015).

At least 2,000 Syrian refugees have been registered in Yemen since August 2014. The total number of Syrians in Yemen is estimated to be more than 10,000 (OCHA, 05/11/2014).

Yemeni Refugees and Migrants in Other Countries

Since end March, the UN reports the arrival of Yemeni refugees in Djibouti and in Somalia, in a reversal of migration dynamics (ECHO, 05/04/2015). As of 13 May, 18,132 people have left Yemen for the Horn of Africa. 11,183 have arrived in Djibouti and 6,949 in Somalia (IOM, 13/05/2015).

Yemeni migrants in Saudi Arabia will be given reprieve, with eligible Yemenis being allowed to work and six-month visa renewals available to Yemenis in Saudi Arabia (AFP, 04/05/2015).

Food Security

WFP estimates that the number of food insecure people in Yemen has increased to 12 million – a 13% rise since the start of the crisis (OCHA, 17/04/2015). Prior to the escalation of the conflict, five million people were estimated to be severely food insecure (WFP, 31/12/2014). Most areas of Yemen are expected to remain in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) through June 2015, with increased needs for humanitarian assistance as the lean season and political crisis continue (FEWSNET, 03/2015).

Areas of particular concern for deteriorating food security outcomes include Sa‘ada, Hajjah, Abyan, Al Dhalee, Lahij, and Shabwah governorates, as well as the city of Aden. If conflict and market disruption continue, and humanitarian access is limited, the worst affected areas of Yemen could fall into Emergency (IPC Phase 4) over the coming months (FEWSNET, 04/2015).

Agriculture and Markets

Acute fuel shortages provoked by the conflict have affected food prices (WFP, 10/04/2015). Food prices have risen by 40% (OCHA, 17/04/2015).

Due to conflict-related disruptions to the imported food supply, as well as the likely reduction in fuel subsidies and currency depreciation, food prices are likely to increase in the coming months. Disruptions to sources of income and the potential increase in the cost of food and other goods are likely to reduce household purchasing power. This is likely to decrease the quantity and quality of food consumed, as almost all poor households rely heavily on market purchases (FEWSNET, 03/2015).

The declining supply of cooking gas led to a 30–40% increase in prices in January. Shortages may worsen if the current political tension in Marib deteriorates, as this governorate supplies cooking gas to Sana’a and other central and northern governorates (FEWSNET, 18/02/2015).

Health and Nutrition

The country’s health system is at imminent risk of collapse due to shortages of medical supplies and fuel for generators. Hospitals have been closed due to lack of fuel to run generators (UNICEF, 12/05/2015). Ambulances are also reported to be out of service (WHO, 12/05/2015). Fuel shortages are jeopardising the in-country vaccine stock, worth nearly USD 10 million (WHO, 18/04/2015). Health staff are increasingly unable to report to work. On 18 April, the Ministry of Public Health and Population said the only oxygen generating plant in Yemen had ceased to function due to lack of fuel (OCHA, 19/04/2015). 23 hospitals have been attacked since the beginning of the conflict.

Non-Yemenis make up at least 25% of health workers and their evacuation has added to shortages. In areas where violence is ongoing, staff are fleeing health facilities that in danger of being hit (WHO, 27/04/2015). There are shortages of medicines on local markets and prices of available essential medicines have increased by more than 300% (WHO, 17/04/2015).

Prior to the escalation of the crisis, an estimated 8.6 million people had limited access to health services (OCHA, 09/09/2014). Qualified medical staff was already in short supply, as was medical equipment.

Cases of bloody diarrhoea, measles, and suspected malaria have increased (OCHA, 23/04/2015). The collapse of access to healthcare has facilitated the spread of diseases,
with 44 alerts of suspected outbreaks including measles, dengue fever, and meningitis (WHO in AFP, 01/05/2015).

According to WHO, 200,000 women require urgent health assistance, including an estimated 27,200 pregnant women (WHO, 18/04/2015; 19/04/2015).

**Aden’s main hospital Al Jumhouria has been out of service for several weeks, and Basaheeb Military Hospital is reportedly no longer operating (UNICEF, 12/05/2015).**

In Sa’ada, services at 11 health facilities were suspended due to their close proximity to areas targeted by airstrikes (OCHA, 08/04/2015). Limited access to essential health services as a consequence of ongoing conflict has increased the risk of higher morbidity and mortality from mass casualty events and common diseases (diarrhoea, respiratory infections and vaccine-preventable diseases) in areas such as Al Bayda, Marib, Taizz and Aden.

**Nutrition**

The number of acutely malnourished children under the age of five has fallen from an estimated one million at the end of 2013 to just over 840,000 in 2014, according to the Nutrition Cluster. In the same period, the number of severely acutely malnourished children declined from 279,000 to about 170,000. However, more than one in ten children is still acutely malnourished, with boys more affected than girls (Comprehensive Food Security Survey, 11/2014).

National GAM had slightly improved: 12.7% of under five children are malnourished compared to 13% in 2011 (OCHA, 31/08/2014; FEWSNET, 16/09/2014). The Comprehensive Food Security Survey shows that GAM had improved considerably in Al Hudaydah, Aden, Lahj, Marib, Al Dhalee, Hadramaut and Al Bayda; but severely deteriorated in Taizz, Ibb, Dhamar and Al Maharah, due to various factors including poor water and sanitation conditions, poor food consumption habits, and scarce health facilities.

In early February, 61 out of 333 districts in Yemen were reported to have critical levels of GAM (over 15%) and another 105 serious levels (10–14.9% GAM) (OCHA, 14/02/2015).

**WASH**

Prior to the escalation of the crisis, an estimated 13.1 million people did not have access to safe water (OCHA, 09/09/2014), 12.1 million are without access to improved sanitation, and 4.4 million lack access to adequate sanitation (OCHA, 28/02/2015).

Millions of people are receiving less than an hour of uninterrupted water supply per day. The lack of power combined with damaged water pumps in the south have forced people to resort to water collection from unprotected and abandoned wells. Cases of waterborne diseases are rising as temperatures increase and hygiene deteriorates, with unverified reports of acute diarrhoea resulting in a number of child deaths in Mualla, Aden governorate (UNICEF, 22/04/2015).

An estimated 68,000 IDPs, many of whom are in protracted displacement, and their host communities in Hajjah require WASH assistance. About 9,000 people (1,500 families) affected by conflict in Al Jawf over August–September need WASH assistance (OCHA, 14/02/2015). Open defecation remains standard practice for more than 20% of the population and appears to be higher for young children (UNICEF 2014).

**Shelter**

An inter-agency assessment in Hajjah found that shelter was one of the three greatest needs (UNHCR, 17/04/2015).

In Amran, many IDPs are reported to be living in the open; fear of airstrikes is preventing them taking shelter in public buildings (OCHA, 10/05/2015).

In Hajjah, Al Hudaydah and Abyan governorates, around 3,500 families are living in open spaces or in tents and other improvised shelters. Many lost all their belongings. Shelter is a major problem in Lahj and many families have now moved into schools and health facilities where they feel safer. These families lived in mud houses that are now destroyed by the conflict (OCHA, 19/04/2015).

**Education**

Schooling has also been suspended for over 1.5 million children since the crisis began (OCHA, 17/04/2015). 30 schools have been damaged or occupied (UNICEF, 22/04/2015).

**Schools are increasingly used as shelter for the displaced population (UNICEF, 12/05/2015).**

Nationwide, an estimated 2.5 million children are not in school (OCHA, 04/2014). 69% of the estimated 1.14 million 6–14 year-olds not in school are girls (UNICEF cited in Yemen Times, 04/11/2014).

**Protection**

Between 26 March and 22 April, an estimated 551 civilians were killed, including 115 children. Another 1,185 civilians, including 67 children, were injured (IRIN, 24/04/2015). This represents roughly half of the total casualties since 26 March.

In Aden, militants were using tanks to fire at residential buildings in Al Ahmadi as well as Crater and Maalla districts (OCHA, 23/04/2015).

Protesters against the Houthi takeover have been illegally detained and tortured, according to several reports. One protester was reported dead on 14 February, after sustaining severe injuries while being detained by Houthi militias (AFP, 14/02/2015; Amnesty, 16/02/2015).

Over January, 1,490 migrants and refugees arriving in Yemen were reportedly abducted. 234 were women. A further 243 migrants and refugees reported being physically assaulted and 63 reported robbery or extortion (RMMS, 31/01/2015).

Due to their marginalisation, the Mumasheen minority has higher humanitarian needs than the average population (UNICEF, 20/02/2015).

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Due to their marginalisation, the Mumasheen minority has higher humanitarian needs than the average population (UNICEF, 20/02/2015).
Up to 30% of fighters in armed groups are children. In December, the UN estimated that in 2015, an estimated 3.9 million children are living in areas where violations of their rights constitute a serious risk. Of these, an estimated 2.6 million are in need of child protection services (OCHA, 22/12/2014).

Houthis, Ansar al Sharia, AQAP and state forces are all recruiting children (Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict, 01/10/2014). Armed children guard checkpoints throughout Sa’ada, Ibb, Hudaydah, and Amran (UNICEF, 31/12/2014; 20/01/2015).

SGBV

About 100,000 people are predicted to require support related to gender-based violence in 2015. GBV in Yemen remains critically under-reported. From January to mid-October 2014, 8,300 GBV cases were reported (OCHA, 22/12/2014).

Mines and ERW

Landmines and explosive remnants of war are a major concern in the northern governorates. There were several incidents reported in Sanaa, Sa’ada, Al Dhalee, Amanat Al Asimah and Ibb in September and October (UNICEF, 31/10/2014).

In Lahj, local partners report that AQAP has placed landmines in Al Hamra area of Al Hawta district in order to guard against any Houthi advance (OCHA 31/03/2015).

The Yemen Executive Mine Action Center (YEMAC) believes areas in north-western Hajjah governorate are contaminated with cluster munition remnants, but it has been unable to survey them due to insecurity. YEMAC has confirmed the presence of cluster munition remnants in four districts on the border between Sada’a governorate and Saudi Arabia (Cluster Monitor, 04/12/2014).

OVERVIEW

Lebanon has the highest per capita concentration of refugees worldwide. While the country struggles to deal with the refugee influx, which exceeds a quarter of the Lebanese population, tensions between host and refugee populations are increasing due to food price hikes, and pressure on health and education systems, housing, and employment. The number of poor living in Lebanon has risen by nearly two-thirds since 2011, to 2.1 million, and Lebanese unemployment has doubled (UNHCR 18/12/2014).

Political Context

The Lebanese Parliament has extended its mandate until June 2017, on the grounds that elections would present too much of a security risk. The Reform and Change bloc boycotted the extension vote and said it would challenge the extension at the Constitutional Council (Daily Star, 12/11/2014).

The Government was formed in February 2014 after ten months of political stalemate. It brings together the Hezbollah movement and its allies, and the Future Movement bloc, who back opposing sides in the Syria war. Neither side has veto power over the other.

Former president Michel Sleiman’s term expired on 25 May 2014. The March 8 bloc, which includes Hezbollah, has boycotted voting for the new president, arguing that the sessions are futile until rival groups agree on a consensus candidate. The next parliamentary session to vote for a new president has been postponed until 22 April (Daily Star, 02/04/2015).

Security Context

Hezbollah’s involvement in Syria, and the alleged presence of Jabhat al Nusra (JAN) and the Islamic State (IS) in Lebanon, raises destabilisation concerns in Lebanon. Longstanding tensions between Lebanon and Israel have flared occasionally in the context of the Syrian civil war.

The Government of Syria continues to conduct cross-border air raids (UN Security Council, 22/04/2015). Cross-border incidents decreased between October and April, but there were at least 45 shooting incidents, seven shelling incidents, and 16 rocket attacks from the Syrian side of the border.

Bekaa Valley: Along its northern and northeastern border with Syria, Lebanon is engaged in a battle against armed groups reportedly affiliated to IS and JAN. The Lebanese army has maintained a near-daily pattern of attacking militant positions on the outskirts of Ras Baalbek. Several militant positions were seized in March (Daily Star, 15/03/2015; 28/03/2015). However, analysts estimate that no more than 3,000 IS and JAN fighters are between 210,000 and 320,000 are involved in some form of child labour (VoA, 23/01/2015)

- Only 30% of Syrian children born in Lebanon have birth certificates (UNHCR 10/11/2014).

LEBANON DISPLACEMENT

KEY CONCERNS

- 1,196,560 Syrians are registered as refugees in Lebanon. 11,319 are awaiting registration. Bekaa is hosting 419,835 refugees; Beirut 347,972; North Lebanon 288,156; and South Lebanon 140,597 (UNHCR 26/03/2015).

- More than three million people are directly affected by the Syrian crisis in Lebanon (UNHCR, 25/01/2015).

- 300,000–400,000 refugee children of school age not being educated within Lebanon.

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in Syria’s Qalamoun area on the border with Lebanon, which is insufficient to wage a large-scale assault on the country (Stratfor, 03/01/2015; Daily Star, 06/01/2015).

Tensions have soared between residents of Arsal and the adjacent Syrian village of Qara amid a spate of tit-for-tat killings and kidnappings (Daily Star, 02/04/2015). Previous violence in Arsal, and sporadic incidents across the country, have been followed by an increase in raids and arrests by the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) (OCHA, 15/01/2015).

**Tripoli:** On 10 January, a JAN attack killed nine people and wounded 37 in an Alawite neighbourhood (AFP, 11/01/2015; OCHA, 15/01/2015). Bouts of fighting took place late in 2014 between Sunni groups sympathetic to armed opposition groups in Syria, and Alawite groups supporting the Syrian Government. Fighting was recurrent before the alleged presence of IS and JAN, and is mostly a manifestation of longstanding socio-economic grievances and sectarian tensions (SNAP 06/11/2014).

**Palestinian refugee camps:** The security situation in many Palestinian refugee camps is tense. A Palestinian joint security force deployed to the southern refugee camp of Mieh Mieh in late March, less than a year after a similar security plan was implemented in Ain al Hilweh (Daily Star, 24/03/2015). Security forces have reported that 46 people from Ain al Hilweh have joined jihadi groups in Syria. Fighters reportedly transit back and forth between Syria and the camp (Daily Star; AFP, 07/04/2015).

**South Lebanon:** On 13 May, Hezbollah moved part of its military infrastructure to villages in South Lebanon. Israel is accusing Hezbollah of using civilians as human shields and said it will strike villages if necessary (Orient du Jour, 13/05/2015). On 12 March, shooting was reported between Israel and Lebanon in the disputed Shebaa Farms. The same day, an Israeli soldier was wounded in a shooting incident near Quneitra in the Golan Heights (Daily Star, 10/03/2015; 12/03/2015). There were a number of incidents between Hezbollah and Israeli Defence Forces at Shebaa Farms and the Golan Heights in January. 13 were killed, including a UN peacekeeper and a General of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard (UNIFIL/Daily Star, 28/01/2015; NYT, 28/01/2015; Washington Post, 19/01/2015; BBC, 19/01/2015; Middle East Monitor, 21/01/2015).

**Humanitarian Context and Needs**

Some 3.3 million people in Lebanon, including 1.2 million children, are directly affected by the Syria crisis (UNHCR 16/12/2014). Lebanon is also hosting 270,000 long-term Palestinian refugees (UNICEF 12/12/2014).

**Access**

Refugees live across 1,750 different locations in Lebanon, making the delivery of humanitarian assistance challenging (UNHCR 10/2014). Northern Bekaa, Tripoli, and Akkar are areas of higher risk, and the UN will only carry out critical missions to parts of those areas (WFP 03/12/2014).

**Border Restrictions**

Since 6 May, registration with UNHCR has been temporarily suspended as per the Government’s instruction such that refugees awaiting registration are not counted anymore. The Government formally agreed to stop welcoming displaced people in October 2014, barring exceptional cases. The policy raises serious protection concerns and had already resulted in a drop of monthly refugee registrations by close to 80% compared to a similar period in 2014 (UNHCR, AFP 24/10/2014; UNHCR 07/2014; UNCHR, 20/04/2015).

Since January, Syrians wanting to enter Lebanon must apply for a visa. The visa policy and other new regulations make legal stay more complex for refugees (UNHCR, 25/01/2015; BBC, 05/01/2015; Daily Star, 14/01/2015). An average of 13% of registered refugees have entered through unofficial border crossings and are not able to pay the prohibitive regularisation fees. Those who entered through official crossings often have difficulties meeting the residency renewal fees (UNHCR 10/2014).

**Displacement**

**Refugees in Lebanon**

Since 6 May, registration has been temporarily suspended. 1,183,327 Syrians are registered as refugees in Lebanon. Bekaa is hosting 415,803 refugees; Beirut 344,533; North Lebanon 283,728; and South Lebanon 139,263 (UNHCR 07/05/2015). The number of Syrians in Lebanon who are not registered with UNHCR is unknown.

26% of refugees are women, and 53% children. 32% of registered families are headed by women. Over 38% of households include at least one person with specific needs (UNHCR 09/2014). Most refugees come from Homs, Idlib, and Jebel Saman (Aleppo) (UNHCR 30/11/2014).

More than half of refugees coming to Lebanon moved at least once before crossing the border; one in ten has moved more than three times (UNHCR 01/09/2014).

Palestinian refugees from Syria: 45,185 Palestinian refugees from Syria (PRS) reside in Lebanon. Bekaa is hosting 415,803 refugees; Beirut 344,533; North Lebanon 283,728; and South Lebanon 139,263 (UNHCR 07/05/2015). The number of Syrians in Lebanon who are not registered with UNHCR is unknown.

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Palestinian refugees from Syria: 45,185 Palestinian refugees from Syria (PRS) reside in Lebanon (UNHCR, 28/02/2015). PRS entry to Lebanon is now almost entirely limited to those transiting to a third country. An increasing number of PRS remain in Lebanon without legal stay, and face an array of protection concerns (OCHA 01/09/2014).

**Host Communities**

All 446 host communities have reported inadequate or insufficient access to water, waste water management systems, affordable housing, and employment opportunities. Conditions in urban locations are better than in rural communities (OCHA 09/2014). 86% of Syrian refugees are living in Lebanon’s 242 most vulnerable locations. Competition for scarce income-generating opportunities, more expensive goods and services, and less affordable accommodation, are the main drivers of tensions (UNHCR 09/2014; REACH 08/2014).

**Food Security**

As of 6 May, 1.5 million people are in need of food assistance (WFP, FAO, Food Security cluster, 31/03/2015; UNHCR, 06/05/2015). As of end January, significant funding shortfalls resulted in a 30% reduction in the value of the food for targeted displaced...
Syrians and Palestinian refugees from Syria (WFP/FAO, 31/01/2015). Since February, food vouchers have a value of USD 19, down from USD 27 (WFP, 31/03/2015). After a vulnerability analysis, some 3,017 households (15,291 individuals) have been informed they will no longer be receiving WFP assistance as of 1 May 2015 (UNHCR, 27/04/2015).

41 focus group discussions confirmed that families had already been forced to prioritise their needs and adopt various negative coping strategies, notably reducing the frequency and quantity of meals, prioritising children’s food needs and increasingly relying on debt (WFP, FAO, FS cluster, 31/03/2015). The highest levels of food insecurity are found in North Lebanon (Akkar) and the Bekaa Valley (WFP 18/12/2014).

Agriculture and Markets

A severe drought has resulted in a substantial decline in agricultural production throughout the country (FAO 11/2014). Aid workers say much of the suffering due to water shortages could be alleviated by repairs to infrastructure (VOA, 23/12/2014).

An increased number of livestock have been crossing from Syria into neighbouring countries and potentially spreading animal diseases (FAO, 17/03/2015).

Livelihoods

700,000 people are in need of livelihood assistance (UNDP, 31/01/2015; UNHCR, 06/05/2015). An ongoing assessment indicates that 36% of refugees are severely or moderately economically vulnerable (UNHCR, 04/03/2015). 78% of refugee households are not able to generate an income, citing a lack of work as the main issue. Newcomers arriving in 2014 are in general more vulnerable: 39% of refugees surveyed in July were unemployed for over 12 months in Syria before fleeing to Lebanon (UNHCR 09/2014).

88% of the employed are paid 40% less than the minimum wage. Female Syrian workers earn 30% less than male workers (UNHCR 09/2014).

Palestinian refugees from Syria: More than 37% of PRS have reported cash and food aid as their main source of income (UNRWA, 03/2014). The majority of employed PRS cannot rely on wages to ensure a decent standard of living. Only 11% of PRS households were able to rely on previous savings and remittances.

Health and Nutrition

3.3 million people are in need of healthcare (WHO/UNHCR, 31/01/2015; 06/05/2015). Health services are available, but are costly (WHO, 01/2015). Short opening hours and lack of trained health personnel further limit access.

72% of primary health centres assessed by UNICEF in 2014 lack sufficient essential drugs, 67% lack sufficient medication for chronic diseases, and 49% lack sufficient antibiotics for children (UNICEF, 08/2014). In early 2013, a nationwide survey among refugees aged over 60 was carried out. Two-thirds of the sample described their health status as poor or very poor. Most reported at least one non-communicable disease, physical limitation and needs for medical aid. Difficulties in affording medicines were reported by 87%. (Biomed centre, 20/04/2015).

Mental Health

Around 300,000 displaced Syrians are estimated to be most vulnerable to mental health concerns; 60% are women and children (WHO 07/2014). 89% of Syrian youth (18–25 years of age) have described themselves as depressed, anxious, or afraid most of the time (UNFPA; UNHCR 10/2014).

Data collected in early 2013 showed that 61% of older refugees reported feeling anxious, and significant proportions reported feelings of depression, loneliness, and believing they were a burden to their families (Biomed centre, 20/04/2015)

WASH

3.3 million people are in need of WASH assistance (UNICEF/UNHCR, 31/01/2015; 05/05/2015). As of mid-2014, 33% of refugee households do not have drinking water, compared to 28% in 2013 (VASyR 08/2014; UNHCR 07/2014).

WASH conditions are worse for refugees in informal settlements, in difficult-to-access locations in the Bekaa Valley and the north, and PRS (UNHCR 07/2014). Informal settlements have limited or no sanitation facilities.

Approximately 12% of households (twice the percentage in 2013) do not have access to a place for washing. Of those who had access, over 7% were sharing bathrooms and latrines with 15 people or more (VASyR 08/2014).

Only 8% of wastewater in Lebanon is treated, and the increase in the population has led to an 8–14% increase in the amount of wastewater generated (Ministry of Environment; UNHCR 16/12/2014).

Waste management: Waste management remains poor in most places where refugees live. Diminishing funding has reduced waste management activities in Bekaa and the north, and municipalities do not have the capacity to collect (UNHCR 09/2014).

Shelter and NFIs

1.8 million people are in need of shelter assistance (UNHCR, 31/01/2015; 05/05/2015). 55% of Syrians are living in poor shelter conditions compared with 32% in 2013; 36% are sharing accommodation with other families (UNHCR 24/04/2014).

The number of refugees forced to move to tents in informal shelters continues to grow (MSF, 26/01/2015). As of 1 September, 1,392 informal settlements house 186,240 refugees; in June 2012, there were 282 informal settlements (UNHCR 09/2014, 07/2014).

An increased number of livestock have been crossing from Syria into Lebanon, and PRS (UNHCR 07/2014). Informal settlements have limited or no sanitation facilities.

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Their populations are highly dependent upon assistance and loans (UNHCR/REACH 11/2014). In Beirut, many Syrian refugees have settled in Palestinian refugee camps, where WASH and shelter conditions are often substandard (IFRC, 03/02/2015).

Palestinian refugees from Syria: The PRS population has increased from 110,000 to 140,000 since 2011: 44,000 are Palestinian refugees from Syria (OCHA 09/2014; 01/2015). PRS households are residing in alarmingly crowded dwellings, with an average of 4.6 persons per bedroom; 8.4 people on average share one bathroom. Most households (71%)
reported paying rent for shelter. Slightly over a quarter of households (27%) were hosted free of charge.

**Lebanese returnees:** As of 6 May, 50,000 Lebanese nationals had returned from Syria since the beginning of the crisis (UNDP, UNHCR; 06/05/2015). Assessments in 2014 indicated that at least 51% of returnees are shelter insecure; 27% live in single-room structures, warehouses, garages, or unfinished buildings; 4% live in informal settlements and collective shelters; 4% are classified as homeless (IOM/OCHA 09/2014; UNHCR 07/2014).

**Education**

750,000 children are in need of education assistance (UNICEF, UNHCR, 31/01/2015, 06/05/2015).

A total of 502,000 school-aged Syrian refugee children in Lebanon (aged 3-18 years) are registered by UNHCR (31/01/2015). According to ILO estimates, 300,000–400,000 refugee children of school age are not being educated (VoA, 23/01/2015). According to UNHCR, 106,795 Syrian refugee children were enrolled in public schools as of end March, which is around 21% of Syrian children who need access to a full, formal quality education (UNHCR, 06/05/2015). Less than 3,000 refugees are currently enrolled in secondary and vocational schools (UNHCR, 06/05/2015).

**Enrolment rates in Beirut are far higher than in Bekaa, where school location and transportation are major issues (UNHCR, 06/05/2015).** Countrywide, the biggest barrier to schooling is financial. Language barriers and safety concerns contribute to a high dropout rate among refugee children (REACH 11/2014; UNHCR 09/2014).

**Palestinian refugees from Syria:** About 6,600 PRS students have enrolled in 60 UNRWA schools for the 2014/2015 school year (UNRWA 03/12/2014). School enrolment rates have doubled since the previous academic year, to 64%. Enrolment rates are lower for PRS living outside camps, and decrease as children grow older (even within the same household): children aged 13 years and older are facing difficulties adjusting to UNRWA’s Lebanese curriculum, taught in English or French.

**Protection**

Members of the Lebanese army have committed serious violations, including violations of the rights of detained refugees, evictions, and threats of eviction. 45 Lebanese municipalities have imposed curfews on Syrian refugees, which violate international human rights law and appear to be illegal under Lebanese law (HRW 10/2014). As of February, the Lebanese army has ordered 17,000 refugees in eastern Bekaa Valley to vacate informal tents to vacate informal tents, according to UNHCR, reportedly to prevent infiltration by militants (DAILY Star, 07/02/2015). As of 1 May, 61 sites have been impacted and 5,981 individuals evicted and relocated. 6,422 individuals remain at risk of eviction (UNHCR, 10/05/2015).

**Statelessness:** Stateless refugees in Lebanon include Syrian Kurds who were denaturalised in Syria in 1962. Between March 2011 and August 2014, 34,272 Syrian refugees have been born in Lebanon. An estimated 72% do not possess an official birth certificate (UNFPA 30/11/2014). Norwegian Refugee Council, identifies that 65% of the interviewees lacked information on birth registration and 43% of refugee parents did not have a valid residency visa (UNHCR, 06/05/2015)

**Sexual and Gender-based Violence**

The mobility of refugee women in Lebanon is reportedly restricted due to fear of sexual harassment and exploitation (UNFPA 13/08/2014). 25% of survivors of reported SGBV cases are under 18 years of age. A weak legal framework, limited resources, and social barriers prevent refugees at risk of SGBV, or victims, from seeking and receiving adequate protection. Other challenges include lack of documentation and growing tension between refugees and host communities.

There are no official statistics on child marriage, which exists in some areas; the rate has risen with the influx of Syrian refugees (UNICEF, AFP 08/2014).

**Child Protection**

Only 30% of Syrian children born in Lebanon have birth certificates (UNHCR 10/11/2014).

According to ILO estimates, between 210,000 and 320,000 refugee children of school age who are not in school, are involved in some form of child labour (VoA, 23/01/2015). The main factors that cause children to live or work on the streets are social exclusion, vulnerability of households, the influx of Syrian refugees into Lebanon, as well as organised crime and exploitation of children (ILO et al., 16/02/2015).

According to UNHCR, consultations with refugees confirmed increased trends in child labour and early marriage. Young people reported security concerns and fear of harassment. (UNHCR, 28/02/2015; 20/04/2015).

**Mines and ERW**

Lebanon has nearly 1,400 confirmed minefields and 520 cluster munitions strike areas, including in areas hosting refugees. In March 2014, refugees were living within 10–20m of known minefields in West Bekaa and Rashaya (Mine Action Group).

On 27 March, eight children were wounded when a landmine exploded in Zebqin, Tyre region (AFP, 27/03/2015).

**Updated:** 14/05/2015

**OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES** COMPLEX, FOOD INSECURITY, INSECURITY

**LATEST DEVELOPMENTS**

2 May: Five journalists were injured by Israeli forces during a march marking World Press Freedom Day near Bethlehem (OCHA, 06/05/2015; local media, 02/05/2015).
KEY CONCERNS

- 1.9 million people need humanitarian assistance; 1.3 million in Gaza and 600,000 in the West Bank (OCHA, 31/03/2015).

- 1.45 million people, or 33% of the people in oPt, are estimated to be food insecure (WFP, 19/12/2014). 868,000 people in Gaza alone require food aid (UNRWA, 05/02/2015).

- 1.4 million people are in need of WASH assistance, particularly access to water (OCHA, 12/05/2015).

- Continuity of medical care is threatened by the financial crisis and electricity shortages in both the West Bank and the Gaza Strip (OCHA).

- The ongoing blockade of the Gaza Strip limits access and movement of both people and goods.

Political Context

The Palestinian reconciliation Government, made up of members of both Hamas and Fatah, was sworn in before President Abbas in June, ending seven years of division (AFP, UN, 02/06/2014). It had a six-month mandate, but no formal announcement regarding the passing of the six months was made (UNRWA, 14/12/2014).

On 27 March, the Palestinian Liberation Organisation ended its security cooperation with Israel, in response to the Israeli Government withholding the Palestinian Authority’s tax revenue (Reuters, 05/03/2015). The PA had threatened to appeal to the International Criminal Court (ICC) (AFP, 05/04/2015; BBC, 06/03/2015) but the Israeli Government has now released the funds (AFP, 20/04/2015). The PA announced they will now pay the salaries owed to public employees, which has been a source of unrest for months (AFP, 20/04/2015).

On 16 January, the ICC launched a preliminary examination of the events of the 50-day war (ICC, 16/01/2015). Palestine became an official member of the ICC on 26 March (AFP, 26/03/2015). The United States and Israel opposed the move, citing that oPt is not a sovereign state.

On 28 February an Egyptian court declared Hamas a terrorist group, increasing tension along the Gaza border (UNRWA, 06/03/2015).

Security Context

Gaza

Israeli forces opened fired into the Access Restricted Area approximately 18 times in the week ending the 11 May which is consistent with previous weeks. However, there has been a spike in the number of injuries as a result of firing, as eight Palestinians were wounded (OCHA, 11/05/2015). In recent weeks, Israeli forces firing into the ARA has rarely caused injury. On 20 April, Egyptian patrol boats fired towards Palestinian boats west of Rafah, southern Gaza (UN, 23/04/2015). Between March 31 and 13 April, members of an armed group fired on Israeli forces and communities in southern Israel and along the border (OCHA, 14/04/2015). There were no casualties.

Palestinian armed groups continue to test-fire rockets into the sea and fire rockets towards Israel. In 2015, none have causes any casualties so far; many have landed within the Gazan side of the border (OCHA, 11/05/2015).

Unrest

On 29 April, a Palestinian unity rally ended in clashes between Hamas and Fatah supporters. It is unclear if anyone was injured (Reuters, 29/04/2015). Growing tensions have been attributed to the slow pace of reconstruction in the aftermath of Operation Protective Edge.

West Bank and East Jerusalem

In the week ending 11 May, 23 Palestinians were injured by Israeli forces (OCHA, 30/04/2015). On 24 and 25 April, two Palestinian men were shot and killed in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, one after stabbing a police officer. Between 31 March and 13 April, Israeli forces shot dead two Palestinians (OCHA, 16/04/2015). On 25 April a Palestinian allegedly rammed his car into a crowd of police officers, injuring three, in the third deliberate car ramming this year (AFP, 18/04/2015; BBC, 06/03/2015). The same day, a bus in the West Bank was hit by a petrol bomb (AFP, 25/04/2015).

On 26 March, three Palestinian children were injured during clashes between Palestinian security forces and gunmen in Balata refugee camp near Nablus (AFP, 26/03/2015).

Settler-related Violence

In the week ending 11 May, four Israeli settler attacks on Palestinians resulted in injury or property damage (OCHA, 11/05/2015). There have been two hit-and-run incidents so far in 2015 (OCHA, 09/02/2015). 184 structures have been demolished and 227 people displaced in 2015 (OCHA, 31/03/2015).

590 buildings were destroyed and 1,177 people displaced in 2014. 330 incidents of settler-related violence resulted in Palestinian casualties or property damage in the West Bank and 237 incidents resulted in Israeli casualties or property damage in 2014 (OCHA, 16/02/2015).
Humanitarian Context and Needs

Access

Border Restrictions

On 14 April, Israeli authorities allowed Palestinian medical staff working in Israel to enter from the West Bank with their own vehicles for the first time in 15 years (AFP, 14/04/2015).

Material for reconstruction in Gaza continues to be restricted and delayed (UNRWA, 31/03/2015). On 14 April, it was reported that the delivery of wood would be heavily restricted. Israeli authorities believe Hamas may use it to construct tunnels to launch attacks on Israel (Gisha 14/04/2015).

Egyptian authorities last opened the Rafah crossing in both directions on 9 and 10 March. It has only opened for 13 days since October 2014 (OCHA, 16/03/2015). Around 30,000 people are registered to cross through Rafah, but are as yet unable to do so (OCHA, 11/05/2015).

A European Union delegation was denied access to the Gaza Strip by the Israeli authorities in March (UNRWA, 24/03/2015).

Critical Infrastructure

The Gaza Power Plant shut down between 22 and 25 April due to the closure of Kerem Shalom crossing during Israeli holidays (OCHA, 30/04/2015). Fuel shortages and infrastructure restrictions mean 12–18 hours of blackout per day (UNICEF, 26/03/2015).

Displacement

As of 6 March, 100,000 people remain displaced since the July–August conflict, and are residing in schools or temporary shelters (IFRC, 06/03/2015).

Between 27 January and 2 February, at least 162 Palestinians were displaced in the Jordan Valley and Hebron by the Israeli military, due to their proximity to an Israeli-declared ‘firing zone’ (OCHA, 02/02/2015).

Food Security

1.45 million, or 33% of Palestinians, are food insecure: 57% of the population of Gaza and 19% of the population of the West Bank (WFP, 19/12/2014). 868,000 people in Gaza require food aid, including 65% of the registered refugee population (UNRWA, 14/04/2015).

Electricity shortages have impacted food production and refrigeration. Delays at crossings are complicating deliveries. Destruction of tunnels bringing inexpensive goods has also impacted access to food and supplies.

Livelihood

The unemployment rate in in December 2014 in oPt was 29.1%. Unemployment in the West Bank was 17%, and Gaza 44% (UN, 08/05/2015; 21/04/2015).

Health and Nutrition

Child Health

Between 300,000 and 400,000 children are in need of direct and psychosocial support in the Gaza Strip (UNICEF, 26/02/2015, World Vision, 13/04/2015).

WASH

90% of the water in Gaza fails WHO standards for safe drinking water (UNWRA, 24/03/2015). The groundwater level is declining, and the aquifer is infiltrated by seawater and wastewater.

Although solid waste is being collected in most areas, it is being left in temporary sites rather than dumped in designated landfills.

Shelter

An estimated 500,000 Palestinians are in need of shelter assistance (OCHA, 31/03/2015). As of 30 April, 9,161 Palestine refugee houses are still considered totally destroyed by Operation Protective Edge. 5,066 have suffered severe, 4,085 major, and 124,782 minor damage. UNRWA has only received funding to construct 200 homes (UNRWA, 30/04/2015). As of mid-April, none had been built yet (UNRWA, 14/04/2015). In total, approximately 16,000 new housing units are needed to replace homes destroyed or rendered uninhabitable during Operation Protective Edge (Washington Post, 31/03/2015).

Education

90% of the 252 UNRWA schools in Gaza run on a double shift basis, and some on triple shifts, affecting some 400,000 students (UNRWA, 29/01/2015; OCHA, 12/02/2015).

Protection

18,000 Palestinians live in or near the 18% of the West Bank designated by the Israeli authorities as “firing zones”, areas of land claimed by the Israeli military for training and security purposes. Palestinians who live in these zones face severe access restrictions, recurrent demolition, and incidents of forced displacement and home
demolition (OCHA, 12/01/2015). Most of the around 7,000 Palestinian Bedouins and herders, some 60% of them children, have demolition orders pending against their homes, and over 85% lack connection to the electricity and water networks. (OCHA, 06/05/2015; 23/09/2014).

Child Protection

Approximately 30 children were injured by live ammunition in the first quarter of 2015 (Defence for Children International, 23/03/2015).

Up to 1,500 orphaned children need sustained physiological and social support (OCHA, 04/09/2014; UNICEF, 02/01/2015).

As of December 2014, a monthly average of 185 Palestinian children were in Israeli detention (OCHA, 31/03/2015).

Mines and ERW

On 6 May, two children were injured by ERW in Gaza City. In April and March, 11 Palestinians were injured and one killed by ERW across oPt (OCHA, 30/04/2015; 16/04/2015; 02/03/2015; UNRWA, 11/05/2015; 12/03/2015).

It is estimated that more than 1,900 ERW have yet to be secured (UNRWA, 23/09/2014). In 2014, ERW killed 31 civilians and injured ten in Gaza, and injured 18 in the West Bank (UNICEF, 23/10/2014; 27/10/2014; OCHA, 02/02/2015).

Journalists

On 2 May, five journalists were injured by Israeli forces during a march marking World Press Freedom Day near Bethlehem (OCHA, 06/05/2015; Local media, 02/05/2015). It has been alleged that an increasing number of journalists are being targeted and injured by Israeli forces during clashes. Rubber bullet and live ammunition has been used. It is allegedly due to a policy change. Palestinian journalists have been the most affected (AFP, 08/04/2015).

Updated: 14/05/2015

PAKISTAN CONFLICT, FLOODS, DISPLACEMENT, EARTHQUAKE

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

13 May: At least 43 people were killed and 30 injured in a gun attack targeting members of the Shi'ite Ismaili minority. This is the first attack in Pakistan officially claimed by Islamic State (AFP)

12 May: Four people were killed in two incidents of house collapse during rains in Larkana, Sindh province (local media)

9 May: At least 47 people died and 25 were injured in a gunfight between two Pakistani tribes close to the Afghan border (AFP)

7 May: A peace committee volunteer was killed by an improvised explosive device in Mohmand Agency (local media).

KEY CONCERNS

- Nearly 860,000 displaced by military operations in Zarb-e-Azb in North Waziristan and Khyber Agency (UNHCR, 16/03/2015). There were already 1.1 million IDPs in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and FATA as of mid-December 2013.

- Ongoing chronic drought conditions in Tharparkar in Sindh. As of 23 March, 211 children have died from malnutrition in Thar in 2015 (local media, 23/03/2015; USAID, 04/12/2014).

OVERVIEW

Priority humanitarian needs are health, nutrition, and food assistance. The security situation remains volatile due to militant attacks in urban centres and military operations against the Taliban in the tribal areas.

Security Context

Militant attacks continued in the first quarter of 2015, including in Balochistan. In March, however, militant attacks declined by 23% compared to February, with up to half taking place in FATA (DAWN, 02/04/2015; ACLED, 26/03/2015). Sectarian violence is mounting against Shi'ites, especially in Sindh.

Government military operations in tribal areas have escalated, notably since the Taliban attack on an army-run school in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in December 2014, which 141 people, in retaliation for government operations in the region (ICG, 05/01/2015; BBC News, 17/12/2014).

On 21 January three Islamic State (IS) recruiters were arrested in Lahore, raising fears of an IS infiltration in the region (Le Monde, 21/01/2015). In September 2014, a new branch of Al Qaeda was announced, covering Pakistan (Financial Times, 03/09/2014).

1,781 civilians were killed in terrorist violence in Pakistan in 2014, compared to 3,001 in 2013 (SATP, 01/01/2015).

Balochistan

The Baluch Liberation Front (BLF) has opposed the alleged annexation of Balochistan since 1948. 2014 saw a sharp rise in acts of violence. Attacks by Islamist armed groups are also a problem in the state.
Three people were killed and 20 injured by an explosion on 16 April (AFP, 26/04/2015). BLF gunmen killed 20 workers after identifying that they were from outside the province on 11 April (local media, 11/04/2015). On 13 April, 13 suspected militants belonging to the BLF were killed in a raid by security forces (Local media, 21/04/2015). One person was killed and one severely injured by a landmine explosion and an attack in Kech district on 11 March. Both attacks were reportedly targeting military administrative staff (DAWN, 11/03/2015).

**Gilgit Baltistan**

Taliban claimed responsibility for the helicopter crash in which seven people died, including the ambassadors of Norway and the Philippines; Pakistani officials' investigation points towards engine failure (international media, 08/05/2015; local media, 11/05/2015).

In June 2014, the Taliban vowed to start an all-out war against the Government, and the Government launched operation Zarb-e-Azb in North Waziristan Agency. A second operation began on 18 October in Khyber Agency, and was expanded mid-March 2015 to cover Landi Kotal, Jamrud and Bara districts. The military claims to have cleared two-thirds of the tribal regions (local media, 30/03/2015; 23/03/2015). At least 44 suspected militants were killed on 2 May in government airstrikes in North Waziristan and Khyber Agency (local media, 05/05/2015).

On 16 April, militant group Islamic State's (IS) commander-designate for Pakistan was killed along with two others while planting a bomb in the Toor Dara area in Khyber Agency. IS has not confirmed this (local media, 21/04/2015).

At least six people, including a pro-government tribal elder, died in a bomb blast in Bajaur tribal district (AFP, 11/05/2015). One person was killed and three injured when two suicide bombers were stopped from entering a school (local media, 11/05/2015). A roadside bomb targeting security forces killed one and injured one in Peshawar at end April (AFP, 28/04/2015). Three people were killed, including two children, after a bomb concealed inside a toy went off in the Swat Valley in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on 17 March (AFP, 17/03/2015).

At least 47 people died and 25 were injured in a gunfight between two Pakistani tribes over disputed mountain territory close to the Afghan border (AFP, 09/05/2015).

**Punjab**

At least seven police were kidnapped on 2 May near Rahim Yar Khan by members of Chooto Bakhrahi and Shiltoo gang (local media, 05/05/2015). 17 people were killed and more than 70 injured in twin Taliban suicide attacks on churches in Lahore in Punjab on 15 March, sparking protests which led to three more deaths, including two suspected militants (AFP, 16/03/2015). A Taliban attack near police headquarters in Lahore on 17 February killed five and injured 17; the attack was in retaliation for the execution of imprisoned Taliban members (AFP, 17/02/2015).

**Sindh**

At least 43 killed and 30 injured in a gun attack targeting a bus carrying members of the Shi'ite Ismaili minority on 13 May. This is first attack in Pakistan officially claimed by Islamic State (AFP, 13/05/2015). A report from the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan highlights that killing, including both terror attacks and other crime, dropped 34% in the first quarter of 2015 compared to the same period in 2014 (local media, 21/04/2015). Two people were killed and 13 wounded in an explosion targeting police in Karachi on 27 March (DAWN, 27/03/2015). An explosion targeting a Shi'ite mosque killed at least two people and wounded another seven in Karachi on 20 March (AFP, 20/03/2015). A bombing targeting a Shi'ite mosque in Shikarpur on 30 January killed more than 60 people (AFP, 30/01/2015).

**Humanitarian Context and Needs**

**Access**

Access in Balochistan remains challenging due to insecurity (ECHO, 20/10/2014).

**Security Incidents Involving Aid Workers**

A peace committee volunteer was killed by an improvised explosive device blast in Mohmand Agency on 7 May (local media, 11/05/2015). An explosion in South Waziristan on 4 April killed two bomb disposal technicians (local media, 06/04/2015). At least three peace volunteers were killed and a further two injured on 2 February in a bomb blast in Tirah Valley in Khyber Agency (DAWN, 03/02/2015).

A member of a polio vaccination team and a police guard were killed on 17 March during a vaccination campaign in Sheikhabad in Balochistan (AFP, 17/03/2015). Five people were killed in attacks on polio vaccination teams in Balochistan in February (AFP, 18/02/2015; AFP, 04/02/2015; DAWN, 05/02/2015). Three polio workers were attacked in January, including two killed (OCHA, 03/02/2015).

In 2014, 79 aid workers had been attacked as of November, in 71 incidents mostly in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, FATA, and Sindh, 51 of which were linked to polio (OCHA, 30/11/2014).

**Disasters**

**Drought**

As of 23 March, 211 children have died from malnutrition in Thar in 2015, as the area continues to suffer food shortages due to chronic drought conditions (local media, 23/03/2015). The drought situation is expected to worsen in the coming months (Government, 19/03/2015).

Drought in Tharparkar affected nearly 1.74 million people (259,946 families) in 2014 and killed 650, mostly children. Many families have migrated (USAID, 04/12/2014; Inter Press Service, 03/01/2015; DAWN, 16/02/2015). 50,585 hectares have been damaged in Dadu district, affecting around 50,000 people (DAWN, 21/01/2015).
Rains and Storms

Four people were killed in two incidents of house collapse during rains in Larkana, Sindh province (local media, 13/05/2015). A windstorm and heavy rains hit Peshawar on 26 April and killed 49 people and injured 26, as of 1 May. The information minister for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa declared a state of emergency at all hospitals in the province (Government, 1/05/2015; Al Jazeera, 26/04/2015). Initial assessment showed damage to housing, electricity and communication infrastructure, crops, and orchards in the outskirts of Peshawar. The motorway was also damaged. Urgent food needs for 12% of interviewees, severe damage to houses for 32%, tents were required for 15%. Charsadda, Nowshera and neighbouring areas were also affected (local media, 05/05/2015; Government, 30/04/2015).

At least three people were killed, 16 injured and hundreds of houses damaged by heavy rains in Balochistan on 14 March and early April (local media, 16/03/2015; 05/04/2015). Five people were killed and 11 injured in rain-related accidents in Shikarpur in Sindh on 3 April (DAWN, 03/04/2015). Strong winds and a hailstorm in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and FATA killed four people and injured a six on 2 April. A landslide near an Afghan refugee camp in Quetta, Balochistan, killed four the same day (DAWN, 02/04/2015).

Displacement

IDPs

As of 30 April, there were 1.8 million IDPs in Pakistan, half of whom were displaced by the 2014 military operations. 31% of IDP families are in Bannu (86,023), another 26% in Peshawar (70,916), and 16% in Dera Ismail Khan (44,236). 2% are in three IDP camps in Khyber, Orakzai, and Kurram agencies in FATA (UNHCR, 31/03/2015; 30/04/2015). Lack of identification documents, education facilities and psychological support were reported as priority needs, according to a 2014 assessment (Protection Cluster, 31/12/2014).

Returnees

The phased return of people displaced in FATA started mid-March. As of 30 April, approximately 146,060 individuals have returned, including 122,878 individuals in Khyber, 1,487 in North Waziristan and 21,695 in South Waziristan (UNHCR, 30/04/2015). Returning families require reconstruction support (DAWN, 31/03/2015; local media, 23/03/2015). A FATA Sustainable Return and Rehabilitation Strategy has been put into place for the first time to ensure safe and sustainable returns of IDPs (UN, 07/04/2015).

Refugees in Pakistan

Returns of undocumented Afghans from Pakistan have increased in 2015 following security incidents in Pakistan, particularly the Taliban attack in Peshawar in December. As of 13 May, 60,000 people have voluntarily returned and another 6,000 undocumented Afghans were expelled (AFP, 13/05/2015). Another 15,000 holding a Proof of Registration card have also reportedly returned between January and March (DAWN, 15/04/2015). Government aims at finalising a return policy by end of August (local media, 11/05/2015).

As of 7 May, 1.6 million Afghan refugees are estimated to live in Pakistan, mostly in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, although numbers are difficult to ascertain. The majority live in host communities (UNHCR, 29/12/2014; OCHA, 7/05/2015). In addition, there are 600,000 non-Afghan registered refugees (OCHA, 7/05/2015).

Pakistani Refugees in Neighbouring Countries

At 8 April, nearly 242,732 refugees (35,252 families) from Pakistan had arrived in Afghanistan’s Khost and Paktika provinces since mid-June 2014 (OCHA, 14/04/2015).

Food Security

67 districts are in Phase 2 food insecurity, 28 are in Phase 3, and ten in Phase 4. Phase 3 and 4 districts are mostly in the Balochistan, Sindh and FATA (Food Security Cluster, 24/04/2015). As of February, 1.83 million people were in need of food assistance (Food Security Cluster, 04/02/2015). Economic access to food continues to be the main limitation to household food security. Households in Tharpakar and surrounding districts in Sindh continue to be severely affected by persistent drought; they were in Emergency food insecurity (IPC Phase 4) at November (FAO, 20/03/2015; USAID, 04/11/2014).

Almost half of returnees in FATA (49%) reported taking loans to meet their basic needs in a recent assessment. Overall, only 28% of returnee households had acceptable food consumption (Food Security Cluster, 24/04/2015).

Displaced populations in FATA are also still vulnerable due to insecurity (FAO, 20/03/2015). Most conflict-related IDPs rely on negative coping mechanisms and require support (ECHO, 20/10/2014).

Health and Nutrition

1.1 million people, including displaced populations, are in need of basic health and quality maternal and child health services (OCHA, 31/01/2015). The influx of IDPs has severely strained health facilities and the lack of medical staff to provide care for displaced women is a critical challenge (UN Population Fund, 03/10/2014). Concerns are rising over shortages of vaccines against tuberculosis (DAWN, 26/02/2015).

Polio

22 new polio cases have been reported so far in 2015 from Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Khyber Agency, South Waziristan, and Sindh (Alhassan Systems, 21/04/2015; local media, 21/04/2015). In 2014, 306 polio cases were confirmed, the previous peak was 199 cases in 2000 (WHO, 24/04/2015; Global Polio Eradication Initiative, 15/01/2015; DAWN, 01/01/2015).

Over 16,400 families across the country refused to get their children vaccinated and 610,333 children were missed during the first two days of the third round of the 2015
National Polio Campaign initiated on 16 March (DAWN, 19/03/2015).

Nutrition

An estimated 2.86 million children and pregnant and breastfeeding women are undernourished in Pakistan, including one million IDPs (OCHA, 31/01/2015). In Sindh, 1.1 million children under five are acutely malnourished; 400,000 of them are suffering from SAM (ECHO, 20/10/2014). In Dadu district, Sindh, 3.8% of children under five were found to suffer from severe acute malnutrition in December 2014 (ACF, 03/02/2015). In FATA, GAM reaches 16% and SAM 5.6% (Nutrition Cluster, 30/04/2015).

In Balochistan, maternal mortality rates have been increasing due to malnourishment and anaemia (DAWN, 29/11/2014).

WASH

1.1 million people are in need of WASH, including 500,000 IDPs (OCHA, 31/01/2015). Over 80% of water resources in Pakistan's southern Tharparkar district have become unsafe for drinking due to the drought (Reuters, 02/02/2015).

Shelter and NFIs

1.1 million people are in need of emergency shelter, including 530,000 IDPs (OCHA, 31/01/2015). Inadequate shelter services, overcrowding, harsh weather conditions, and high rental charges are key challenges for the displaced (OCHA, 15/08/2014). 50% of the population in Tirah valley in FATA has been living in makeshift shelters after having been displaced in 2013 (IOM, 14/11/2014).

An Afghan refugee camp that was built on valuable land was demolished in Peshawar on 1 May. The district administration demolished around 1,200 houses after the deadline to evacuate the camp, 30 April, had passed (local media, 05/05/2015).

Education

450,000 children are in need of education, including 205,000 displaced children. Educational supplies are a major gap in the education response (OCHA, 31/01/2015).

Almost 275 schools in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa are non-functional, including 40 in Mansehra and 37 in Swat districts, due to lack of staff, land disputes, and security issues. Around 33% of children in Balochistan are also out of school (DAWN, 13/03/2015; 20/02/2015).

The majority of school-aged Afghan refugees in camps in Pakistan are unable to attend school after sixth grade due to lack of means to attend private schools (Inter Press Service, 22/12/2014).

Protection

An estimated 1.08 million people are in need of protection, including 500,000 displaced people. This group largely consists of IDPs and returnees in KP and FATA. Women, children, the disabled, and the elderly need referral assistance and specialised protection in displacement and returnee areas (OCHA, 31/01/2015).

Sabeen Mahmud, a rights activist, was killed on 24 April, shortly after hosting an event in Karachi, on disappearances in Balochistan: 2,825 people are missing to date (Al Jazeera, 25/04/2015).

SGBV

421 incidents of violence involving 534 women and girls were reported in Karachi province during the third quarter of the year (DAWN, 11/10/2014).

In areas where the Taliban is active, over 500 girls' schools have been bombed. In the south and southwest of the country, ethnic violence continues to curtail women's freedom of movement.

Updated: 15/05/2015

INDIA INTERNAL UNREST, Floods

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

27 April–13 May: At least 87 people have been killed and 348 injured by aftershocks from the two earthquakes that hit Nepal on 25 April and 12 May. Bihar and Uttar Pradesh states were most affected (Government).

29 April: At least 30 people have been killed by heavy rains and thunderstorms in Uttar Pradesh (ECHO).

22–23 April: At least 65 people were killed and more than 2,000 injured in a storm affecting eight districts in Bihar state; Purnia district was worst hit (Government; local media).

KEY CONCERNS

- An estimated 616,140 people are displaced due to armed conflict and inter-communal violence (IDMC, 20/04/2015).
- Heavy rains and storms: landslides and floods in Jammu and Kashmir affected 1.9 million people in September 2014. Cyclone Hud Hud in October affected close to 1 million people. In March 2015, fresh landslides in the area destroyed buildings (Times of India, 30/09/2014; OCHA, 20/10/2014; Government, 30/03/2015). End April, 65 people were killed and more than 2,000 injured in Bihar state (Government).
- 35,077 cases of swine flu and 2,172 deaths have been confirmed nationwide since the outbreak began in mid-December (local media, 11/04/2015).

For more information, visit the ACAPS country analysis page.
Political Context

Despite general stability, pockets of the country experience insecurity and conflict. The Government of India, the Government of Pakistan, and Kashmiri insurgent groups have fought over control of the disputed region of Kashmir since the Indo-Pakistan War. Pakistan controls the northwest portion, India controls the central and southern portion and Ladakh, and China controls the northeastern portion (Aksai Chin and Trans-Karakoram Tract). Although thousands have died as a result of this conflict, the situation has become less deadly in recent years. UNHCR-supported elections in 2008 resulted in the creation of a pro-India Jammu and Kashmir National Conference, which formed a state government.

Security Context

Kashmir

During violent protests in Srinagar over 17–19 April, a 16-year-old boy was killed by security forces, and around 30 police officers were injured (AFP, 19/04/2015). Between August 2014 and January 2015, cross-border fighting between India and Pakistan left 23 dead, the majority civilians (AFP, 08/10/2014, 29/10/2014, 27/11/2014, 03/01/2015). More than 10,000 villagers were displaced (Times of India, 07/01/2014).

Chhattisgarh

Tensions are rising in the Bastar region of Chhattisgarh after several attacks by the Communist guerrilla Naxalites in mid-April. In the first major Naxalite attack of the year, seven police were killed and ten injured on 11 April in the Sukma district of Chhattisgarh. According to police, up to 20 militants were also killed in the attack (Reuters, 14/04/2015). On 12 April, one police officer was killed in a firefight between border security forces and suspected Naxalites in Kanker district. On 13 April, five police were killed and eight injured in an explosion in Dantewada district (local media, 12/04/2015; 13/04/2015). On 15 April, a police officer was found dead in Bastar district; he had been abducted by Naxalites on 7 April (local media, 15/04/2015).

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Displacement

As of April 2015, an estimated 616,140 people were displaced in India due to armed conflict and inter-communal violence. 251,000 of these are in Jammu and Kashmir, and around 113,000 in Assam. At least 346,000 of the IDPs were newly displaced between January 2014 and March 2015, with the majority fleeing inter-communal violence in Western Assam (IDMC, 20/04/2015).

The majority of the IDPs live in camps, where they often have limited access to food, clean water and adequate sanitary facilities (IDMC, 20/04/2015).

Disasters

Drought

Nine million farmers have been affected by drought in Maharashtra, particularly Marathwada and Vidarbha regions, following a delayed and inadequate monsoon season (Times of India, 06/02/2015).

Earthquake

At least 20 people have been killed and 60 injured after tremors from a second earthquake in Nepal on 12 May affected Bihar, West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh states (Government, 13/05/2015). 67 people had been killed and 288 injured, mainly in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh states, by aftershocks from the first earthquake, which hit Nepal on 25 April (Government, 27/04/2015).

Floods

At least 30 people were killed and heavy rains and thunderstorms in Uttar Pradesh on 29 April (ECHO, 29/04/2015).

At least 65 people were killed and more than 2,000 injured in a storm affecting eight districts in Bihar state over 22–23 April; Purnia district was worst hit (Government, 23/04/2015; local media, 23/04/2015). Thousands of hectares of standing crop of maize, wheat and pulses have been destroyed (local media, 22/04/2015).

At least 35 people died and crops were damaged in the northern states of Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab and Madhya Pradesh, due to heavy rainfall early April (local media, 07/04/2015).

Heavy rainfall in late March caused landslides in Kashmir. As of 31 March, 17 people have been killed (local media, 31/03/2015). Access is reportedly very difficult as some roads have been destroyed (AFP, 30/03/2015).

In September, more than 1.9 million people were directly affected by flooding in Jammu and Kashmir (Caritas India, 25/09/2014). In October, severe cyclonic storm HudHud made landfall on India’s east coast. 920,000 people were affected, 41,200 houses and buildings were damaged in Andhra Pradesh, south Odisha, and Chhattisgarh (OCHA, 20/10/2014).

Health and Nutrition

Swine Flu

As of 11 April, 35,077 cases of swine flu have been confirmed nationwide; 2,172 people have died since the outbreak began in mid-December (local media, 11/04/2015). 6,563 cases, including 439 deaths have been reported in Gujarat, 6,675 cases and 430 deaths in Rajasthan, and 4,259 cases and 12 deaths have been confirmed in Delhi (local media 11/04/2015). Public gatherings in Ahmedabad, the largest city in Gujarat, have been restricted (local media, 25/03/2015). Government restrictions and licensing issues have made it difficult for hospitals to obtain adequate quantities of antivirals (Al Jazeera, 23/02/2015).

Protection
A landmine explosion on 4 April in the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir’s Rajouri district killed three civilians and injured one (Government, 04/04/2015).

Updated: 15/05/2015

JORDAN DISPLACEMENT

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

13 May: Only 1% of Iraqi refugee needs are funded. The most urgent issues include access to healthcare, education and, for the most vulnerable, heavy reliance on cash assistance (UNHCR).

KEY CONCERNS

- 628,675 Syrian refugees (UNHCR, 18/04/2015). Another 100,000–200,000 may be unregistered (PI, 12/11/2014).
- Syrians continue to face increasing difficulty accessing Jordan. Official border points have closed or become inaccessible, and entry restrictions have increased (RRP6, 2014-2015).
- Since early 2014, a more rigorous approach to the encampment policy of Syrian refugees has reportedly been implemented (PI, 08/01/2014).
- An estimated 52,000 other refugees are registered with UNHCR, mostly Iraqis (UNHCR, 15/03/2015).

Security Context

Concerns over spiralling crises in Iraq and Syria and extremist infiltration have increased since Jordan joined the US-led airstrikes against Islamic State (IS) in September, and reinforced its participation since the assassination of a captured Jordanian pilot on 3 February. Jordan may increasingly be the target of asymmetrical attacks against its civilians or security services, and social divisions amplify (ISW, 19/02/2015; Al Jazeera, 12/02/2015).

Jordan has a substantial home-grown extremist movement. Thousands of Jordanians are reportedly fighting for opposition groups with links to Al Qaeda, particularly Jabhat al Nusra (JAN) and IS, despite the military’s tight control of cross-border movements (NYT, 12/04/2014). The country is also home to several prominent extremist religious leaders of an older generation, linked to Al Qaeda ideology and who generally support JAN (Al Jazeera, 07/07/2014). Jordan has increased pressure on the Muslim Brotherhood, arresting one of its prominent leaders in November (Jordan Times, 22/11/2014).

Social tensions between refugees and host communities are a concern, primarily due to a sense of competition over housing, jobs, and assistance (Mercy Corps, 12/2014). Despite few notable incidents, refugees report widespread discrimination and harassment (The Guardian, 01/12/2014).

Humanitarian Context and Needs

The influx of Syrian refugees has placed significant additional stress on Jordan’s already-strained public services. Public health and education services, which Syrians can access, are particularly affected, and water infrastructure, waste collection, and the cost to the national budget of subsidised goods are significant issues (Government, 12/2014).

Access

International NGOs working in Jordan are required to get all projects approved by the Government, and frustration persists among NGOs about the lengthy approval process, and lack of clear guidelines. Aid agencies assisting Syrians also need to include vulnerable Jordanians as 30% of their beneficiaries; some have faced pressure to increase this proportion to 50% (PI, 06/2014).

Tension between humanitarian agencies and the Government may increase, as the Jordan Response Plan (JRP) 2015–16 attempts to channel the bulk of international assistance to Syrians through government institutions, rather than humanitarian actors (JRP, 12/2014). At 17 March, only 5.5% of the funding for the JRP has been secured (Government, 17/03/2015).

Displacement

Syrian Refugees

As of 6 May, 627,287 Syrian refugees were registered in Jordan; 52% are children and 3.5% are aged over 60. Around 83% live in urban areas and the remainder in three camps (UNHCR, 31/03/2015; 14/04/2015; 27/04/2015; 06/05/2015). Another 100,000–200,000 refugees may be unregistered (PI, 12/11/2014).

A spike in the number of arrivals was reported 12–19 March, mostly due to a surge in fighting in Dar’a governorate in Syria. Daily arrivals averaged 250. Refugees were reportedly in poor condition, and were transferred to camps (UNHCR, 31/03/2015; 19/03/2015).

76,000 Syrian refugees have reportedly returned to their country since the beginning of the crisis (Jordan Times, 10/02/2015). As of 27 April, 100–150 people are returning to Syria every day. Drivers include reunion with family members, increasing vulnerability with reduced aid, lack of livelihood opportunities, and a desire to continue education (UNHCR, 27/04/2015).

Palestinian Refugees from Syria (PRS)

UNRWA records 14,736 PRS who have approached the agency for support since the start of the Syrian conflict (UNRWA, 03/12/2014). 183 PRS, along with a similar number of Syrians, are held in the Cyber City facility near Ramtha, a government-appointed holding facility for Palestinian and Syrian refugees; this number has dropped from 201 at the start...
Since late 2012, the Government has explicitly stated that it would not allow PRS to enter Jordan. Those who do enter are subject to a number of protection issues, including refoulement, confiscation of documents and, for those with Jordanian citizenship, de-nationalisation (HRW 05/2014, 04/07/2012). UNRWA reports 106 cases of PRS deported in 2014, a 40% increase on 2013, but warns that the actual number of deportations is likely much higher (UNRWA, 03/12/2014).

Non-Syrian Refugees

As of 15 March, UNHCR had registered around 52,000 refugees, including 47,554 Iraqis (UNHCR, 15/03/2015; 02/05/2015). A surge in the registration of Iraqi refugees was reported between September and December 2014, but new registration numbers have significantly decreased in 2015; no reason is known for the decrease (UNHCR, 23/09/2014; PI, 11/03/2015).

Only 1% of Iraqi refugee needs are funded. The most urgent issues are lack of access to schooling (34% of Iraqi refugees are of school age), the lack of access to health care and, for the most vulnerably refugees, heavy reliance on cash assistance (UNHCR, 13/05/2015).

Food Security

In October 2014, WFP began to replace blanket food distribution with targeted distributions, and cut assistance to 37,000 urban refugees (WFP, 11/11/2014, CFSME, 07/08/2014). This reduction in aid has led to negative coping mechanisms. 13% stated that they would move to camps, 12% would return to Syria, and 25% of those staying said they would withdraw their children from school (WFP, 23/04/2015). Out of about 12,000 households excluded, 38% have been re-included (Multi-Sector Working Group, 13/04/2014).

An additional 34,000 people living above Jordan’s absolute poverty line will be removed from assistance; 239,000 living between the absolute and abject poverty lines will see the value of their food vouchers reduced from USD 18/person/month to USD 14; for the nearly 180,000 refugees living under the Jordan abject poverty line, assistance will be increased from USD 18/person/month to USD 28 (WFP, 19/03/2015).

Livelihoods

Two in three refugee households live below the poverty line and one in six lives in abject poverty (UNHCR, 27/04/2015). One in five Syrians in Jordan is supported by the social safety network (Government, 17/03/2015). With an average expenditure 1.6 times greater than income, refugees increasingly resort to a range of coping strategies (UNHCR, 15/01/2015; UNICEF, 10/03/2015). 69% of refugee households surveyed in a December 2014 multi-agency assessment had had to sell their assets or borrow money in the three months prior to assessment (international organisations, 31/12/2014). 18% of the 3,300 beggars arrested in Jordan in 2014 were Syrian refugees (UNHCR, 30/11/2014; Jordan Times, 18/03/2015). 60% of refugees in Zaatari camp earn some form of income within the camp (UNHCR, 27/04/2015).

Health and Nutrition

The Government decision to halt free access to health services for refugees in November 2014 has led to a marked reduction in Syrians accessing such services, and increased returns to camps to receive healthcare. Three in ten families could not access healthcare services when needed between October and March due to financial reasons. Maternal health is of particular concern: half of pregnant women were unable to afford antenatal care, and 60% of new mothers could not afford postnatal care (CARE, 06/04/2015). Mental health services, including severe emotional disorders, and lack of vaccination among many Syrian children are also an issue (IMC, 16/03/2015; UNHCR, 10/03/2015).

Refugees in Host Communities

Most of the 83% of Syrian refugees living outside camps are concentrated around the major urban areas of the northwest, such as Amman and Irbid. While 91% are renting homes, over half live in substandard shelter, and many are struggling to pay the bills (UNHCR, 01/2105). A December 2014 multi-agency assessment showed that 25% of refugee households outside camps were living in overcrowded shelters (international organisations, 31/12/2014).

In Mafraq governorate, almost half of refugee households have no heating, a quarter have unreliable electricity (UNHCR, 27/04/2015).

An urban verification exercise, which requires biometric registration of all Syrians outside camps and the reissuing of key documents, has been ongoing since 15 February. As of 27 April, 54,794 Ministry of Interior cards had been issued, covering 11% of the urban refugee population (UNHCR, 13/05/2015). Non-participation could affect refugees’ legal status and limit their access to government services (PI, 24/02/2015).

Zaatari camp hosts 82,841 people of concern (UNHCR, 06/05/2015). Since the beginning of 2015, significant numbers of refugees have been returning to the camp from urban areas, probably linked to cold weather and cuts to food and health assistance in urban areas. Since the camp was established in 2012, at least 320,000 refugees have left the camp through both official and unofficial channels (including returns to Syria).

As of 6 May, Azraq camp hosts 17,967 refugees and the Emirati-Jordanian Camp (EJC) 5,779 (UNHCR, 06/05/2015). The EJC has received extensive support, primarily from the UAE Red Crescent; however, refugees have complained about limited freedom of movement in the camp (UNHCR, 15/03/2015; Financial Times, 2014).

WASH

While Jordan has an effective public water system, reports suggest these facilities are under significant strain in areas with high concentrations of Syrians. The per capita water share in the northern governorates has dropped from 110 litres/day to 84 litres.
Municipal sewage and garbage removal services are also under stress (REACH, 12/11/2014). Two out of five Syrian refugees live in poor sanitary conditions; only one in five has a functioning toilet. People in informal shelters are particularly affected (UNHCR, 14/01/2015; 27/04/2015).

Education

59% of the roughly 220,000 Syrian school-aged children in Jordan are enrolled in the public school system. An additional 30,000 are attending informal forms of education, while the remaining 60,000 are not attending any form of education (UNICEF, 19/03/2015).

Barriers to attendance and reasons to drop out include distance; overcrowding; safety in and on the way to schools; lack of resources to pay for school material, and needing to work for household income — especially boys aged 12-17 (UNHCR, 31/03/2015; REACH, 03/2015).

37.5% of Iraqi refugees were not enrolled in schools in 2014, and non-attendance was reported among 40% of those enrolled, mostly for financial reasons, fear of bullying, and level differences (UNHCR, 31/03/2015).

Protection

Entry restrictions

The average number of Syrians able to enter Jordan on a daily basis has dropped significantly since 2013 (RRP6, 2014–2015). The number and accessibility of entry points has been limited, and entry restrictions have increased, forcing Syrians to travel to remote informal crossing-points in the eastern desert (IOM, 2014).

The border crossing leading to Syria’s Dar’a governorate was closed in March for reasons of insecurity (AFP, 01/04/2015). By early April an estimated 2,500 Syrians had gathered at the Rukban and Hadalat borders (UNHCR, 31/03/2015, updated early April).

There was increasing evidence in the second part of 2014 that the Government is returning screened refugees to Syria. Jordanian officials maintain that the border is open to refugees, and that Jordan is simply instituting security measures to exclude people connected to “terrorist organisations” (Al Ghad, 14/12/2014; Jordan Times, 11/12/2014). Numbers are hard to estimate. The most vulnerable refugees likely include those without identity documents, or with forged documents, and those who had previously returned to Syria (PI, 29/09/2014).

Encampment

Since early 2014, the Government appears to be implementing a more rigorous approach to its encampment policy of Syrian refugees. Significant numbers of refugees are being forcibly returned to camps (NRC-IRC, 13/11/2014; PI, 03/12/2014, 12/11/2014). This has often resulted in separation of family members between camp and urban settings (UNHCR, 27/04/2015).

Refugees living in urban areas are required to obtain a service card from the Ministry of Interior in order to access public health and education services, or register marriages, births or deaths. The Government has instructed humanitarian agencies not to provide assistance to Syrians who do not have service cards. There is no sign this decision has been enforced, but it creates a vulnerability (PI, 08/01/2014, 03/12/2014). Refugees in camps and who wish to move to urban areas must obtain “bail” from the government. However, large numbers of refugees have left the camps without obtaining bail. The Government has asked UNHCR not to issue asylum-seeker certificates to Syrians in urban areas who left the camp after 14 July 2014 and who did not obtain bail (PI 16/07/2014 R1, PI 07/2014 R1).

Child Protection

There are reports of recruitment of child soldiers in Syrian refugee camps in Jordan (Norwegian Peacebuilding Resource Centre, 16/02/2015).

The prevalence of child labour, often resulting in children withdrawing from school, raises concerns (UNHCR, 28/04/2015).

Women and Girls

Early marriage is perceived as a form of security among Syrian refugees, but also as a way to circumnavigate government restrictions, such as the bailout rules in camps (which require a close relative for sponsorship). In the first quarter of 2014, about 32% of all registered Syrian marriages were classified as early marriages, compared to 25% in 2013 and 11% in 2011.

SGBV

Forced marriage (33%), physical assault (25%) and psychological/emotional abuse (26%) are the most commonly reported SGBV incidents among refugees, according to research in Amman, Irbid, Mafraq and the three camps from 1 May to 31 December 2014. Women and girls make up 90% of people reporting SGBV. 82.1% of incidents disclosed were perpetrated by members of nuclear families (GBVIMS Task Force, 28/04/2015).

Updated: 13/05/2015

MYANMAR INTERNAL UNREST, FLOODS, DISPLACEMENT

15 May: The President requested and Parliament approved a three-month extension to the martial law period in the Kokang region until 17 August 2015 (local media, 14/05/2015).

Mid-May: Between 6,000 and 8,000 Rohingya and Bangladeshis are thought to be at...
sea, some for months. Most flee from the Myanmar coastline due to protection concerns. Many are adrift, in severe need of water and food (OCHA, 18/05/2015; UNHCR, 14/05/2015; international media, 11/05/2015; 14/05/2015).

KEY CONCERNS

- Repeated bloodshed between Buddhists and Muslims in Rakhine state since 2012, with human rights abuses reported against the Muslim minority (UN).
- 244,000 IDPs, resulting from years of internal conflict, including mainly Rohingya Muslims 146,400 IDPs in Rakhine state (OCHA, 27/02/2014).

Political Context

Myanmar’s first democratic elections in 25 years will take place in October or November 2015 (local media, 21/10/2014). Foreign observers will be invited to monitor the election (Reuters, 24/03/2015). On 12 February, the President approved a law allowing a referendum on changes to the constitution. This move could lift Aung San Suu Kyi’s ban from the presidency (Reuters, 12/02/2015).

Peace Negotiations

In 2013, the Government made peace deals with a number of ethnic groups involved in armed insurgency, with the exception of the Kachin Independence Army (the armed wing of the Kachin Independence Organisation, or KIO), and the ethnic Ta’ang army (TNLA). In February 2015, four ethnic armed groups signed a Deed of Commitment for Peace and National Reconciliation, agreeing to build a union based on democratic and federal principles and a nationwide ceasefire, ahead of the elections (local media, 13/01/2015). On 17 March, the KIO met with the President and affirmed its commitment to the peace process (Government, 17/03/2015). The Government and 16 ethnic opposition groups agreed on draft text for the ceasefire agreement at the end of March (AFP, 30/03/2015). The Government has made clear that the ceasefire agreement will only apply to those ethnic armies taking part in negotiations (AFP, 11/05/2015).

Security Context

Despite peace negotiations, the security situation remains tense in parts of Myanmar. In January, there was fighting in Kachin state. Serious clashes broke out in Shan state in February, and fighting began in Rakhine in mid-April. The Government came under criticism in October 2014, for what has been perceived as a series of offensives against ethnic armed groups in Kachin, Karen, Mon, and Shan states (local media, 20/10/2014).

In early December, the United Nationalities Federal Council, the largest coalition of ethnic armed organisations, announced the establishment of the Federal Union Army, an umbrella group that has been trying to negotiate a nationwide ceasefire between ethnic minorities and the national military. It is unclear if this establishment will help or hinder the peace process (VoA, 02/12/2014).

Kachin State

The KIO still has administrative control over several key areas of Kachin, and clashes between its army (the KIA) and the Myanmar army are intermittent (local media, 06/10/2014). Security incidents have been reported regularly since fighting resumed in April 2014 in Man Win Gyi, in southern Kachin state (OCHA, 16/05/2015). In January, there was fighting in the area of Hpakan (AFP, 15/01/2015; local media, 20/01/2015; local media, 27/01/2014).

Kayah State

As conflict between the Government army and the Karenni National Progressive Party continues, civilians find their movement further restricted as both forces have bases within various villages (local media, 18/05/2014; 17/05/2015). Both government forces and armed groups continue to occupy land and deny farmers access to farmland.

Rakhine State

The Arakan Army (AA), an ethnic insurgent group, has been fighting with government troops in Rakhine (formerly Arakan) state’s Kyauktaw township since 17 April. The insurgent group has opened a new front in western Rakhine state. Its aim is to pressure the government to include it in peace talks. The group has joined forces with the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA) in Kokang region, Shan state (Reuters, 23/04/2015).

Shan State

Fighting broke out in early February between Myanmar’s army and Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA), an insurgent group in Kokang area of Shan state near the Chinese border, displacing tens of thousands of people (AFP, 10/02/2015; Radio Free Asia, 23/02/2015).

On 12 April, renewed fighting was reported between the MNDAA and government troops, with the MNDAA claiming that 35 casualties were reported...
among government troops and four casualties among MNDA soldiers (local media, 09/04/2015). The KIA, the Ta'ang National Liberation Army, the Arakan Army and the Shan State Army-North, as well as former Chinese soldiers, are all involved in the conflict (Deutsche Welle, 13/02/2014; Al Jazeera, 21/02/2015).

Prior to the most recent fighting, clashes between the same parties had been reported in July, October and December 2014. In 2009, serious clashes between MNDA and the army almost wiped out the MNDA (Deutsche Welle, 13/02/2015).

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Access

According to local NGOs, the delivery of aid to conflict-affected communities in remote areas within Shan and Kachin states is hampered by the categorisation of some areas as “black zones” by the Myanmar army, restricting foreign groups’ access (IRIN, 08/10/2014). Insecurity also impedes access.

Kachin state: There continues to be little to no cross-line humanitarian assistance to non-government-controlled areas in Kachin. In December, more than 50,000 IDPs were living in camps under KIO management (local media, 05/12/2014).

Rakhine state: Access to services is impeded by tension and restrictions on freedom of movement. As of mid-July 2014, a vulnerability mapping exercise showed that 36,000 Rohingya Muslims in 113 isolated villages in Rakhine state have no or limited access to basic (OCHA).

Local relief workers in Kyauktaw Township said that military checkpoints in the township were preventing access to displaced persons (local media, 22/04/2015).

Shan state: Roadblocks and border closures are restricting the movement of civilians fleeing fighting between government troops and MNDA. Chinese government officials have increased border controls (Radio Free Asia, 25/02/2015). The Government recaptured some strategic hills in March, which has improved access between Laukkai and Chinswehaw, a town near the Chinese border. Many displaced in Laukkai are fleeing to China (Xinhua, 9/03/2015).

Security Incidents Involving Aid Workers

In February, attackers on aid vehicles in the Kokang area of Shan state wounded seven (Reuters, 17/02/2015). Government troops blamed MNDA for both the attacks; the group has denied responsibility (AFP, 22/02/2015).

Displacement

An estimated 244,000 people are displaced and living in camps in Rakhine, Shan, and Kachin states (OCHA, 27/02/2015). As of February 2015, more than half of the 98,500 IDPs in Kachin and Shan states were living in areas where government services are not available (OCHA, 12/2014; OCHA, 27/02/2015).

Shan: An unconfirmed but estimated 62,000 people are internally displaced from Kokang region; about 13,000 have fled to central Myanmar through Lashio; another 40,000 people from Kokang and other ethnic minorities have fled to areas near the border (OCHA, 27/02/2015; AFP, 18/02/2015; WFP, 03/2015). An unknown number of IDPs have since returned home.

Rakhine: 450 people in Rakhine have fled the villages of Pinglong, Aung Lan Chaung, Dan Chaung and Kalakya to the village of Zapazeik, Kyauktaw Township, following clashes between Arakan Army and government troops (local media, 22/04/2015). On 29 April, 300 people were reported to have fled Pyingso village for Kywaytaung village, Paletwa township (Radio Free Asia, 29/04/2015).

146,000 Rohingya Muslims live in closed camps following inter-communal violence in 2012 (OCHA, 27/02/2015).

Kachin: Armed clashes in Kachin and northern Shan states displaced 20,000 IDPs between January and April 2015, though many are believed to have returned home (OCHA, 30/05/2015).

Returnees

Land taken by the military, the state, and companies close to the Government impedes the orderly future return of refugees, particularly from Thailand, and the resettlement of IDPs to their home communities or new sites (Center for International and Strategic Studies, 22/10/2014).

Refugees from Myanmar

According to UNHCR, as of late March, over 415,000 refugees originate from Myanmar. In early November, UNHCR reported that an increasing number of people, mainly Rohingya, are setting out to sea on smuggling boats; many capsize. As of end November, the number of Rohingya to have fled since early October was thought to have reached 19,000 (AFP, 30/11/2014).

China: Between January and February 2015, around 60,000 people are believed to have fled to China (OCHA, 30/05/2015). Refugees are moving back and forth across the border to seek shelter, food, and employment, according to aid agencies (RFA, 23/03/2015). Recent clashes between the Myanmar government forces and armed groups spilled over the border into China in mid-April and pushed around 700 refugees further into China for fear of being caught up in fighting (OCHA, 12/05/2015).
Bangladesh: 200,000 Rohingya reside in unofficial camps or villages where they get little or no humanitarian assistance and almost no protection from human rights abuse. Most Rohingya are denied refugee status by the Bangladeshi authorities. An estimated 30,000 Rohingya Muslims live in official camps and receive assistance from aid agencies (local media, 09/11/2014).

Malaysia: As of end November, over 40,000 Rohingya registered with the UN are in Malaysia. Rohingya activists say a roughly equal number are unregistered (AFP, 30/11/2014).

Thailand: Since June 2014, movement restrictions have been more strictly enforced; Myanmar refugees are banned from leaving camps, confined to their homes 1800–0600, and threatened with deportation if they do not comply (Refugees International 29/08/2014). In July, the Thai authorities pledged to send about 100,000 of the 120,000 refugees living in border camps back to Myanmar (UNHCR has registered 76,000 refugees). According to senior Thai military officials, measures are in place to deter boats from approaching the country's shores (Reuters, 15/11/2014). Rohingya Muslims are reportedly subject to human trafficking in Thailand (international human rights organisations, 12/2013).

Food Security

Overall, the food security situation has improved, although recurrent inter-communal tensions have negatively impacted the situation, mainly for IDPs (FAO, 24/09/2014). 70,000 people are food insecure in Rakhine state (OCHA, 31/10/2014).

More than 1,000 people in Rakhine state are facing food shortages, as fighting between the Arakan Army and government forces is cutting off access to commercial centres (local media, 04/05/2015).

Livelihoods

The trend for poppy cultivation in Shan state, which was on course to be wiped out ten years ago, has reversed. Poppy cultivation has tripled since 2006, with close to 60,700 hectares of poppy farms, according to UN surveys (NYT, 03/01/2015).

Rohingya fishermen of Maungdaw township, Rakhine state, have been barred from fishing since 7 November (local media, 10/11/2014).

Health and Nutrition

Access to healthcare is a major challenge in Rakhine (OCHA, 30/09/2014). If Rohingya camp residents wish to leave their camp to see a doctor, they must first obtain a referral by a government doctor and reportedly must also often bribe the security guards (Center for International and Strategic Studies, 22/10/2014). Only patients in the most critical condition tend to reach hospital.

Nutrition

In Rakhine state, GAM is above 20% in some areas (UNICEF, 01/02/2015). In June 2014, 2.1% SAM and 6.8% MAM was found among 32,000 children under five screened in Rakhine, indicating a deterioration in parts of the state since March. Severely malnourished children are being referred to Sittwe hospital; fewer referral services, high transportation costs, and fear of travelling to Sittwe are preventing many children from receiving medical care (OCHA 30/06/2014).

Shelter and NFIs

In Rakhine state, 15,000 people are in urgent need of assistance to repair shelters. In Kachin, there is a major need to scale up maintenance and repair work (OCHA, 31/10/2014).

Displaced people and vulnerable communities in Rakhine have limited access to cooking fuel and energy. The situation is particularly difficult for over 80,000 IDPs who have been in camps in Sittwe Township for over two years. Households in camps and isolated villages are using shelter materials or unsustainable and hazardous materials as fuel, the exchange of food rations for fuel, and over-exploitation of surrounding forest and woodland (OCHA, 30/11/2014).

WASH

In Rakhine state, a general deterioration in the WASH situation in camps is aggravating health problems and increasing the risk of waterborne disease (OCHA, 11/09/2014).

Education

In Rakhine state, 28,000 vulnerable children require education support. 60,000 adolescents in isolated communities are without any education opportunities (OCHA, 08/2014).

Protection

About 200 Shan people are alleged to have been forcibly recruited into the Kachin Independence Army since the start of armed clashes with the army in June 2011 (local media, 11/11/2014). Local media has accused government troops of rape, beatings, and shooting of unarmed civilians in the Kokang region, Shan state (RFA, 25/03/2015).

Legal Status of Rohingya Muslims

In the west, massive human rights infringements against the Rohingya Muslim minority in Rakhine state continue to be reported.
In early April, the Myanmar Government started taking back temporary identity cards issued to those without full citizenship, including Rohingya Muslims, which expired at the end of March 2015. As of 6 April, 40,000 cards were collected, according to local media (local media, 07/04/2015). These identity cards were part of a citizenship application process. This move came after dozens of protesters gathered in Yangon to call on the Government not to allow people without full citizenship to vote in the referendum on amending the constitution (AFP, 11/02/2015).

Over 800,000 people are estimated to be without citizenship in the northern part of Rakhine state, mostly Rohingya Muslims (UNHCR). Myanmar continues officially to state that the Rohingya Muslims are migrants from neighbouring Bangladesh, thus excluded from citizenship under the 1982 Citizenship Law. The Government has drafted a plan which would force Rohingya Muslims either to register as Bengalis or be detained. Rakhine authorities would construct temporary camps for people who refuse to be registered or who are without adequate documents (local media, 12/10/2015). Rights advocates say this could put thousands of Rohingya at risk of indefinite detention. Accepting the term Bengali could leave the Rohingya vulnerable if authorities class them as illegal immigrants and attempt to send them to Bangladesh (Reuters, 27/09/2014).

**Rohingya in Bay of Bengal**

The Thai Government began a major operation to shut down human trafficking operations along its border with Myanmar in April. Neither Thailand, Malaysia, nor Indonesia are accepting thousands of people who are seeking refuge. They have cited the Myanmar Government as primarily responsible for the Rohingya. Approximately 3,000 people arrived in Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand in mid-May, but between 6,000 and 8,000 people are thought to still at sea (AFP, 17/05/2015; OCHA, 18/05/2015; UNHCR, 14/05/2015). Some have been at sea for months. They are in severe need of water and food (international media, 11/05/2015; 14/05/2015).

**SGBV**

In 2014, the Women’s League of Burma released a report that documented more than 118 victims of sexual violence at the hands of the Myanmar army since Thein Sein’s government took power (local media, 26/11/2014).

Assessments in northern Shan state indicate that domestic violence is prevalent in IDP camps. Drug consumption and other negative coping mechanisms among men were identified by the women as a contributing factor. Adolescent girls are exposed to particular protection risks, according to the assessment findings. Cross-border trafficking for the purposes of domestic servitude, sexual exploitation, and forced marriage was identified as a major protection concern by respondents (OCHA, 30/11/2014).

**Mines and ERW**

Around five million people in Myanmar live in mine-contaminated areas (Mines Advisory Group, 05/2014). In Kayah state, around 15–20 people are injured annually, although the number of fatalities is unknown. More than 34,000 IDPs are at greatest risk due to their being in unfamiliar areas.

An assessment in Kachin and Northern Shan states concluded that the majority of reported landmine victims over the second half of 2014 were male farmers, and 56% were displaced people. Most of the accidents registered happened while people were travelling on foot to areas they visit often, such as fields. More than 25% of landmine victims knew the area was dangerous before entering it (UNICEF, 30/11/2014).

According to local media, citing intelligence reports by the Bangladeshi border security forces, Myanmar security forces have planted mines along the border between Myanmar and Bangladesh (local media, 23/11/2014). Myanmar has previously denied this practice, while Bangladesh has claimed to have found and removed mines in the border area.

**PHILIPPINES**

**CONFLICT, FLOODS, TYPHOON**

**LATEST DEVELOPMENTS**

- **April 22:*** Dry spells are affecting crops and WASH services in central and southern Philippines (local media).

- **April 20:*** 53, 280 people remain displaced in Maguindanao after the military campaign in March (OCHA).

**KEY CONCERNS**

- Over 26,000 people remain displaced ten months after Typhoon Haiyan and more than two million lack adequate shelter or housing (FAO, 09/10/2014).

- 30,000 people who fled fighting in Zamboanga in September 2013 are still displaced (AFC, 20/03/2015).
The Philippines is one of the most hazard-prone countries in the world, experiencing several large-scale natural hazards a year.

53,280 remain displaced after a month-long military campaign against BIFF in Maguindanao in March (OCHA, 20/04/2015).

OVERVIEW

A series of natural disasters, most significantly Typhoon Haiyan in November 2013, has caused widespread damage across the Philippines and affected millions. The overall political situation had been relatively stable until January 2015, when fighting broke out in Maguindanao. Although tensions remain high, the peace deal with MILF has not derailed.

For more information, visit the ACAPS country analysis page.

Political Context

Since October 2012, the Government has been engaged in finalising a lengthy peace process with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), the country’s largest Muslim separatist group. Draft legislation for the 2014 March Comprehensive Agreement on Bangsamoro was submitted to Congress in September 2014 (AFP, 10/09/2014). The agreement paves the way for the creation of a new Muslim autonomous entity called Bangsamoro, replacing the current Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM). The government aims to set up the region by 2016. The agreement allows for a Muslim self-rule area in southern Philippines in exchange for the decommissioning of MILF forces.

The disarmament process for Philippine Muslim opposition groups started in September 2014. The decommissioning of a first batch of firearms was scheduled for late 2014 (AFP, 28/09/2014). The parties met on 30 January and signed the protocol for its implementation (Government, 28/01/2015; local media, 31/01/2015). The Independent Decommissioning Body has not yet reported on the process.

Security Context

Various armed groups in Mindanao, among them Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF), who split from MILF in 2008, and New People’s Army (NPA), continue their violent opposition against the state. Thousands were displaced by fighting between the Philippine army and BIFF in 2014 (IRIN, 22/07/2014; OCHA). Increased violence between the Philippine armed forces and opposition groups was reported in November and later in January as a consequence of government efforts to capture militants.

On 25 January Philippine security forces entered the remote village of Mamasapano, in Maguindanao, which is held by MILF. However, they had not coordinated with MILF beforehand, as required under the ceasefire agreement. In the worst fighting since the peace agreement of 2014, 44 police officers, 11 militants and two civilians were killed (AFP, 28/01/2015; ECHO, 28/01/2015; OCHA, 02/02/2015).

In the aftermath of the 25 January clashes, the national army launched a military offensive against BIFF in Mindanao (local media, 22/02/2015). On 26 February, troops were sent to Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat, and Maguindanao. On 30 March the Philippines military chief announced that the offensive had ended. 139 insurgents were killed, 12 captured, and bomb-making bases seized during the five-week campaign (AP, 30/03/2015). As of 31 March, government reports indicated that 132,870 people have been affected (Government, 31/03/2015). On April 12, BIFF detonated a roadside bomb in a town in Maguindanao as military vehicles were passing through the district. No one was injured in the blast (local media, 13/04/2015). On April 14, the military reported that a substantial military presence will remain in affected areas and that the armed forces will continue to conduct operations against militant groups (OCHA, 20/04/2015).

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Access

Insecurity in parts of Mindanao and nearby areas is limiting humanitarian access. Concurrent natural disasters have hampered further aid delivery to affected populations.

Disasters

Typhoon Maysak, locally known as Chedeng, weakened into a tropical storm as it made landfall on 5 April in Dinapigue municipality, Isabela province in north Luzon, with no reports of casualties (OCHA, 06/04/2015). 2,140 people that were pre-emptively evacuated in Isabela and Aurora provinces have returned home. (OCHA, 06/04/2015).

Category 5 Typhoon Hagupit, locally known as Ruby, made landfall on 6 December 2014 in Eastern Samar province (Eastern Philippines), (GDACS, 06/12/2014). 3.8 million people were affected across nine regions (WFP, 15/12/2014). Around 38,100 houses were destroyed and 203,600 partially damaged (OCHA, 15/12/2014).

Displacement

As of February 2015, reports suggest that nearly 500,000 people are displaced. Around 80% of the 3 million displaced in 2014 fled natural disasters. An estimated 95,000 fled conflict and violence in Mindanao. The total number of people displaced by conflict and violence reached its lowest level since 2011 (IDMC, 10/02/2015).

Maguindanao

Fighting in Maguindanao between January and March caused the displacement of 125,000 people. As of 15 April, about 70,000 have returned home, while 53,280 remain in 41
evacuation centres across nine municipalities. Insecurity deters them from going home (OCHA, 20/04/2015; ICRC, 20/04/2015; OCHA, 20/04/2015). Food, clean water, medical supplies, emergency shelter and psychosocial and protection support have been identified as priority needs (OCHA, 31/03/2015). The prolonged dry season is further affecting the health and incomes of the IDPs (ICRC, 20/04/2015).

Typhoon Haiyan

Little information is available about progress towards solutions for the approximately four million people who have returned home, although it is believed that livelihood, food, and housing needs remain considerable in Haiyan-affected areas (IDMC, 10/02/2015). Long-term assistance is required, such as supporting self-recovery, assisting households in no-build zones, helping with safer reconstruction, and enabling access to healthcare, schools, public transportation, and livelihood opportunities (UNHCR, 30/09/2014). Larger shelter gaps persist in Western Leyte (EU Red Cross, 20/03/2015).

Zamboanga

18 months after fighting in the city, 32,000 people are still in evacuation centres or transit sites, including 15,000 who are staying with host families (OCHA, 31/03/2015). Those in evacuation centres are in tents or makeshift huts made of wood and tarpaulin (ACF, 20/03/2015). In late 2014, disease outbreaks and sanitary conditions were a main concern (OCHA, 09/09/2014). Protection concerns remain critical; women and children in particular are at risk of abuse and exploitation (OCHA, 01/10/2014).

Fires

Almost 50,000 people have been affected after a number of fires broke out in Parola compound in Tondo, northwest Manila, on 2 March. 800 houses have been severely damaged. Around 25,000 people are being housed in six evacuation centres (IFRC, 08/03/2015).

Food Security

Food remains a priority need for people affected by typhoon Haiyan, more than a year after the event. Food prices are inflated and thousands of people still do not have the means to buy food or have sufficient access to markets (EU Red Cross, 20/03/2015).

The mild El Niño this year is expected to further inflate food prices. In southern and central Philippines the drought is intensifying and has already started to affect agriculture production, in particular in Mindanao (local media, 21/04/2015). Affected crops include corn, rice, high value crops, and vegetables (Government, 22/04/2015). The dry spells are expected to affect even more provinces by May (local media, 20/04/2015).

WASH

Due to the dry spells, water levels in dams in southern Philippines have been reduced. In Tampakan town in South Cotabato, 70% of households have reportedly lost sources of drinking water (Government, 22/04/2015).

Health

Dengue: Since the beginning of 2015, the Department of Health has recorded 19,946 suspected cases of dengue and 53 deaths, a 6.5% increase in cases from the same time last year (local media, 17/04/2015). Since mid-February, the weekly number of dengue cases reported in the country has declined (WHO, 08/04/2015).

According to the Health Cluster, diarrhoea cases have been rising in several areas of Ormoc and Leyte since 30 November 2014 (EU Red Cross, 20/03/2015).

Nutrition

A SMART survey of displaced communities of Zamboanga indicated high malnutrition rates among children under five (ACF, 20/03/2015).

Education

Schooling in Pagalungan (Maguindanao province) and Pikit (Cotobato province) has been suspended following the fighting (ECHO, 24/02/2015). Almost 50 schools, and 20,630 children, have been affected (Government, 13/03/2015).

Protection

BIFF continues to actively recruit and train child soldiers (international media).

Updated: 22/04/2015

DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE’S REPUBLIC OF KOREA FLOODS, FOOD INSECURITY, EPIDEMIC

No accurate or verified data relating to food security of general humanitarian needs is available, therefore Eritrea is not included in the GEO prioritisation.

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

No new significant developments this week, 13/05/2015. Last update: 16/04/2015.

KEY CONCERNS

- Information on the food security situation remains limited. An estimated 18 million people (70% of the population) are food insecure (WFP).
- According to the 2012 National Nutrition Survey, the chronic malnutrition rate is 27.9% and the acute malnutrition rate is 4% of children under five (WFP).
- DPRK is disaster prone, regularly experiencing intense rain, floods and droughts (UN).
- Humanitarian access remains extremely limited (UN).

Political Context

In November 2014, the UN General Assembly approved a resolution condemning DPRK for human rights abuses and recommending the prosecution of its leaders for crimes against humanity at the International Criminal Court (international media, 19/11/2014).

DPRK is subject to sanctions by the UN, EU, and the US, amongst others. The most recent UN sanctions were implemented in a 2013 Security Council resolution following DPRK nuclear threats against South Korea and the US (international media).

Security Context

DPRK–South Korea

In early March, following the annual joint US-South Korean military exercises, DPRK officials reiterated nuclear threats against the US. According to South Korean officials, that same week DPRK fired two short-range missiles off the coast (Reuters, 03/03/2015).

In February 2014, Seoul and Pyongyang held their first high-level talks in seven years, in the Panmunjom truce village. Relations subsequently deteriorated. In April 2014, South Korean officials said that DPRK had completed all steps required prior to a potential nuclear test, as Pyongyang conducted a scheduled military exercise near the border.

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Access

Humanitarian access remains extremely limited. Humanitarian agencies do not have the ability to freely access communities, conduct assessments, or run monitoring and evaluating processes. International sanctions are further complicating assistance, in particular due to the suspension of banking channels for fund transfers (UN, 01/04/2015).

Food Security

An estimated 18 million people, of a total population of 24.6 million, are considered food insecure and are highly vulnerable to shortages in food production. Of these, 1.8 million children, elderly, and pregnant and lactating women are in particular need of food assistance (UN, 01/04/2015).

The food system in DPRK remains highly vulnerable to shocks and serious shortages exist, particularly in the production of protein-rich crops. Lack of agricultural inputs, such as seeds, fertilizer and plastic sheets, is a fundamental challenge for food production (UN, 01/04/2015). According to FAO, food production remained stagnant in 2014, after an improvement of the harvest in previous years. FAO estimates that the food security situation for 2015 is likely to remain similar to 2014 (FAO, 12/02/2015).

In August 2014, the official Public Distribution System food rations were cut by almost half, from 400 to 250 grams per person per day. The rations have since increased, however, there is concern that the decreased ration size reflects general food scarcity (WFP, 25/03/2015).

WASH

Seven million people need access to clean water and sanitation. There is a notable lack of proper sanitation in rural areas and in institutions such as nurseries, kindergartens and orphanages (UN, 01/04/2015).

Education

Lack of teaching/learning materials in addition to the lack of adequate sanitation facilities in school buildings remain a challenge in providing education to six million school-aged children (UNICEF, 26/01/2015).

Health and Nutrition

More than six million people need access to essential health services, including vaccines. Other medical products and life-saving equipment, such as ambulances, remain limited. Furthermore, health facilities often lack functioning water systems, increasing the risks of hospital infections and the spread of diseases (UN, 01/04/2015).

Tuberculosis and malaria are considered major health challenges, with 2,500 people dying of TB every year (UN, 01/04/2015).

Nutrition

Chronic and acute malnutrition remains one of the major contributors to maternal and child mortality (UNICEF, 26/01/2015). According to the 2012 National Nutrition Survey, among children under the age of five, the chronic malnutrition rate is at 27.9% and the acute malnutrition rate is at four per cent, a small reduction from previous years (UN, 01/04/2015). Decreased production of vegetables and soybeans, a major source of protein, contributes to the lack of food diversity for the general population (UN, 01/04/2015).

Reviewed: 13/05/2015
For more information, visit the ACAPS country analysis page.

**LATEST DEVELOPMENTS**

1 May: Government authorities in Luhansk have further restricted civilian movements across the contact line; humanitarian organisations are exempt, but potentially impacted (OCHA).

1 May: Significant vaccine shortages are reported, with only 7–10% of required quantities available in non-government areas of Donetsk (UNICEF).

**KEY CONCERNS**

- Nearly five million people are affected by the crisis in Ukraine, and more than 1.6 million are in need of humanitarian support. The situation is most severe in non-government-controlled areas (MSNA, 30/03/2015).

- More than 1.2 million people have been displaced internally and nearly 823,000 externally. It is difficult for civilians to escape contested areas (UNHCR, 24/04/2015).

- Availability of food but also of health services and medicine, are key concerns. Access to safe water is also an issue (MSNA, 30/03/2015).

- Bureaucratic, security and financial restrictions are impeding access and response (OCHA, 26/12/2014; MSF, 23/01/2015).

**Political Context**

Ukraine and pro-Russian separatist forces signed a peace roadmap on 12 February, introducing a full bilateral ceasefire from 15 February, the establishment of a buffer zone around the frontline, the release of hostages and illegally detained prisoners, and the restoration of social and economic links with affected areas (BBC, 12/02/2015). The ceasefire has been broken repeatedly. The presence and use of heavy weapons continues to be reported along the frontline. On 14 April, the February deal was extended smaller-calibre arms (Le Monde, 14/04/2015; OSCE, 21/03/2015). Violence has abated since the February roadmap, but fighting continues in certain locations, notably in and around Donetsk airport and to the east of Mariupol. Intensive fighting has been reported in Shyrokyne and around Donetsk city since 11–12 April; casualty numbers are unspecified, as access to the areas is severely constrained (OSCE, 16/04/2015; 12/04/2015). The security situation has significantly deteriorated around Donetsk airport since 26 April, especially around Shyrokyne. The OSCE mission was involved in several incidents over 2–3 May (OSCE, 01/05/2015; 03/05/2015).

**Humanitarian Context and Needs**

Nearly five million people are affected by the crisis in Ukraine, including 1.7 million children. 3.6 million are affected in non-government-controlled areas, 954,000 in government-controlled areas in Donetsk and Luhansk, and 310,000 in Dnipropetrovsk, Kharkiv and Zaporizhia regions, the main IDP reception areas. More than 1.6 million are in need of humanitarian support (UNICEF, 01/05/2015; MSNA, 30/03/2015). At 1 May, 21% of the December 2014 humanitarian plan has been funded (OCHA, 01/05/2015).

**Access**

Getting in and out of the conflict zone is becoming more difficult (MSF, 23/01/2015). Lack of available and affordable transport, insecurity along exit routes and administrative barriers are preventing civilians from reaching safety (UNHCR, 10/03/2015). Only four international humanitarian organisations are operating in conflict zones (OCHA, 16/03/2015). IRC has suspended work in Ukraine after separatists raided its offices and detained 37 staff on 29 April (AFP, 09/05/2015).

Corruption allegations led to the dismissal of key government representatives end March, including members of the emergency services, putting additional pressure on the delivery of humanitarian assistance (OCHA, 27/03/2015).

**Administrative Constraints**

Administrative requirements are increasingly complicated, and entry in non-government areas is most difficult for humanitarian organisations (Logistics Cluster, 06/03/2015). Government authorities in Luhansk region further restricted civilian movements across the contact line on 1 May; humanitarian organisations are exempt, but potentially impacted (OCHA, 01/05/2015).

As of 1 May, at least 6,240 people had been killed in the conflict and 15,600 wounded, though the death toll may be higher, since access to conflict-affected areas is restricted (OCHA, 01/05/2015).

Armed groups control most of eastern Donetsk region, including Donetsk's airport and Debaltseve, and a small area of southern Luhansk region (Government, 13/01/2015; international media, 22/01/2015). Non-government forces reportedly comprise around 35,000 to 40,000 fighters, including up to 10,000 Russian fighters (AFP, 23/03/2015).

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Obligatory permits to cross the lines separating government- from opposition-controlled areas have been enforced since 21 January. The permit is not easy to acquire and corruption is reported (UNHCR, 20/03/2015; OCHA, 06/03/2015). Since the ceasefire, many instances of extensive delays or refusal of permission for aid trucks to enter non-government areas have been reported (UNHCR, 20/03/2015). Volunteer organisations working in both self-declared republics have made similar reports (HRW, 13/03/2015). Bureaucratic procedures are constraining access to health services and markets in non-government areas (OCHA, 24/04/2015).

Customs procedures are also tightly controlled and complicated, reportedly hampering operations (Logistics Cluster, 16/02/2015).

Logistical Constraints

The Government has decided to halt public transport in non-government areas, hampering humanitarian access (OCHA, 09/01/2015). Months of conflict have severely damaged Donetsk international airport (international media, 01/12/2014).

Luhansk region is difficult to access due to deteriorated road conditions, UXO and IEDs, and damage to the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge, which can now only support small vehicles (OCHA, 27/02/2015).

Bus connections and private vehicles crossing the administrative border to and from Crimea are often delayed for several days (UNHCR, 06/02/2015). International shipping has been prohibited from the ports of Yevpatoria, Kerch, Sevastopol, Theodosia, and Yalta, on the Crimea peninsula, since 15 July (GARD, 17/07/2014).

Trapped and Hard-to-Reach Communities

Many civilians remain stranded in hard-to-reach areas in conflict and non-government-controlled areas. 500,000 people are living in underground shelters in conflict areas, with little or no access to humanitarian aid (OCHA, 16/03/2015). 150,000 remain in non-government-controlled Horlivka in Donetsk (OSCE, 17/03/2015). 5,000 civilians are estimated to be trapped in Debaltseve as of 20 February. Some 4,000 people remain in 21 institutional care facilities in hard-to-reach areas not controlled by the Government (ICRC, 22/02/2015; OCHA, 06/03/2015). 3,000 people remain in Kyivskyi district in Donetsk city and have not been reached by humanitarian aid; priority needs are for shelter, water and health support (OCHA, 22/03/2015).

Displacement

IDPs

By 27 April, nearly 1.26 million IDPs have been registered in eastern Ukraine since March 2014, including 158,300 children and 52,000 disabled people. 60% are pensioners; the proportion rises to 72% and 74% in Luhansk and Donetsk regions, respectively. Key reception areas are areas under government control in Donetsk (460,200) and Luhansk regions (170,700), and Kharkiv (165,100), Zaporizhzhia (88,600), Kyiv (88,400), and Dnipropetrovsk regions (73,200) (UNHCR, 30/04/2015; OCHA, 07/04/2015). 19,000 people are estimated to be displaced within Crimea (IDMC, 31/10/2014).

A discrepancy between the real and registered numbers of IDPs is a significantly hampering delivery of assistance (OCHA, 30/01/2015). Many pensioners have registered as IDPs solely to be able to access their pension payments, and then moved back home (UNHCR, 06/02/2015). Other IDPs and affected populations continue to commute to their areas of origin, to receive assistance or scope out damage to their homes (OCHA, 22/03/2015).

IDPs need information, notably regarding evacuation, safe roads, travel permits, markets, laws and regulations, and where to access humanitarian aid (IO, 02/2015).

The Government is encouraging IDPs to move west, to ease pressure on accommodation, but coordination is lacking (OCHA, 13/02/2015; UNHCR, 06/02/2015).

Returnees

Some IDPs are reportedly returning to conflict areas, as the devaluation of the national currency has limited their ability to afford basic living expenses, including rent and food (OCHA, 06/03/2015).

Refugees in Neighbouring Countries

834,300 Ukrainians are seeking asylum or other forms of legal stay in neighbouring countries, including 688,610 in Russia and 81,065 in Belarus (OCHA, 12/05/2015). Since July, Russian authorities have prevented Ukrainians from obtaining refugee status in several regions, including border areas and major cities such as Moscow. Most asylum seekers have been unable to collect the required documents and access refugee status (IO, 09/12/2014).

Food Security

More than 1.3 million people are in need of food assistance, including nearly 1.1 million in non-government areas, and 200,000 in government areas in Donetsk and Luhansk. 673,290 people with a poor food consumption score should be prioritised for assistance (MSNA, 30/03/2015). Food shortages have been reported especially in Luhansk, significantly affecting IDPs (OCHA, 10/04/2015; FAO, 26/01/2015). IDPs in Kharkiv are also in need of food and nutrition support (OCHA, 24/04/2015).

A 36% year-on-year rise in the national food price index was reported in February (WFP, 31/03/2015). In Donetsk region, fruit and vegetable price increases range from 60% to 383% (OCHA, 01/05/2015). Increased food prices, disrupted transport systems, high insecurity, remoteness and lack of hard currency limit access to markets for at least 20% of the population in Luhansk, Donetsk, Kharkiv, Dnipropetrovsk, and Zaporizhzhia regions (HNO, 12/2014). Populations in non-government areas are particularly affected (OCHA, 24/04/2015).

Agriculture

Insecurity, damaged infrastructure, landmines, and lack of resources are delaying agricultural activity in many conflict areas (OCHA, 10/04/2015). Some farming enterprises close to the conflict zone have reportedly lost up to 30% of their winter harvest. 80,250
people living in small farming households in rural areas need assistance in the next six months (FAO, 31/01/2015).

13% of wheat, barley, and maize, and up to 30% of sunflower crops were not harvested in 2014 due to displacement, corresponding to losses of 530,000 and 400,000 metric tons (FAO, 31/01/2015).

Livelihoods

Households’ poor financial situation is the main driver of need (MSNA, 30/03/2015). 2.7 million people are in need of a livelihood (OCHA, 24/02/2015). Access to social services, such as pensions and salaries, remains suspended in many conflict and non-government-controlled areas; teachers’ salaries have been reduced in Mariupol in Donetsk and in non-government areas (OCHA, 10/04/2015). Employment opportunities and pressure on the banking system are major challenges in regions neighbouring the conflict zone (OCHA, 01/05/2015).

IDPs from Crimea are often unable to transfer their pensions to mainland Ukraine since banks ceased the use of electronic banking (UNHCR, 06/02/2015).

Health and Nutrition

More than 1.5 million people are in need of health support, including nearly 1.1 million in non-government areas in Donetsk and Luhansk (MSNA, 30/03/2015). The devaluation of the Ukrainian currency means the health budget for 2015 will only cover an estimated 30% of needs (OCHA, 24/02/2015).

There are critical shortages of medicines and medical supplies in eastern Ukraine, especially in conflict areas in Donetsk region, and many people cut off from medical care in non-government areas. A significant increase in medicine prices affects access to basic medication and treatment for chronic illnesses (MSF, 04/03/2015; WHO, 16/01/2015). Significant vaccine shortages are also reported, with only 7-10% of required quantities available in non-government areas in Donetsk (UNICEF, 01/05/2015).

New TB cases are estimated to have increased by 5% in non-government areas of Donetsk, mainly among the elderly and combatants (OCHA, 06/02/2015).

Housing solutions are provided to only 3–5% of IDPs in temporary collective centres (UNHCR, 20/03/2015). 95% of IDPs are in private accommodation and are often excluded from humanitarian assistance (OCHA, 24/02/2015; UNHCR, 06/02/2015). The absorption capacity within host communities is exhausted in high reception areas and in Odessa. A likely increased influx of IDPs to Kyiv could further increase social tensions (OCHA, 16/03/2015).

Conflict Areas

Repair needs are high along the conflict line (UNHCR/Shelter cluster, 30/04/2015). 60% of Shyrokyne’s buildings have been destroyed by shelling, while shelter and food support remain urgent priorities in Debaltseve, as reconstruction has not yet started (MSF, 21/04/2015; OSCE, 27/03/2015). People in cities where shelling is ongoing are living in underground shelters, in acute need of basic NFIs (OCHA, 30/01/2015; MSF, 03/03/2015).

In Luhansk region, more than 10,000 houses need emergency repair (OCHA, 13/03/2015). 30,000 in Donbas are without electricity (OCHA, 03/04/2015).

WASH

More than 1.3 million people need WASH assistance, including nearly 1.2 million in non-
government areas (MSNA, 30/03/2015). More than 2,000km of pipelines have reportedly been damaged in Donbas, significantly hampering water supply (OCHA, 10/04/2015). Over 100,000 people in non-government areas in Luhansk are without access to safe water as the main water treatment station was destroyed (OCHA, 01/05/2015).

Education

600,000 people in Donetsk and Luhansk need education support (OCHA, 24/02/2015). The conflict has disrupted the education of up to 25,000 children in Donetsk and Luhansk cities (OCHA, 13/03/2015). Lack of transportation, mines, and overcrowding are main barriers to school attendance in Donetsk, where 523 facilities need repair (OSCE, 22/04/2015; UNICEF, 20/03/2015; 09/01/2015).

50% of teachers are thought to have left non-government areas (OCHA, 27/03/2015). 7,000 students in non-government areas are unable to access their final high school examination, which may lead to displacement (UNHCR, 10/04/2015).

16% of schools in non-government areas have been damaged, and 20% of those in government areas in Donetsk and Luhansk (UNICEF, 03/04/2015; MSNA, 30/03/2015).

Protection

Human rights abuses by armed groups continued to be reported, including abduction, torture and ill-treatment, unlawful detention, execution, forced mobilisation of civilians, and seizure and occupation of public buildings (Amnesty, 09/04/2015; OHCHR, 15/11/2014).

IDPs

The requirement to register as an IDP in government-controlled areas to be eligible for social payments and pensions is causing displacement and confusing overall IDP numbers. People who have not registered are at risk of financial and other hardship (UNHCR 31/12/2014; 23/01/2015). IDPs from Crimea are particularly vulnerable, as transport communications to Crimea have ceased (UNHCR, 31/01/2015).

An increasing number of unlawful refusals of registration and financial assistance, violations of employment rights, and limited access to social benefits is reported among IDPs (OCHA, 13/03/2015). A mechanism for verifying current IDP addresses could lead to 20–30% IDPs losing their status and benefits (UNHCR, 10/04/2015). The self-proclaimed Luhansk People’s Republic is increasingly issuing documentation, which might limit people’s access to certain rights and entitlements for IDPs (OCHA, 01/05/2015).

Discrimination and stigmatisation of IDPs on political grounds has been reported (IOM, 22/10/2014). There are also concerns that military-age men are not registering as IDPs for fear of being drafted to the army (OCHA, 10/04/2015).

Mines and ERW

At least 109 children have been injured and 42 killed by landmines and UXO in Donetsk and Luhansk regions since March 2014 (UNICEF, 31/03/2015). Contamination of agricultural land is a major concern as the planting season begins: 30,000 hectares of land along the frontline in Novoazovskyi and Artemivskyi districts in Donetsk region are reportedly contaminated (UNHCR, 10/04/2015).

Use of cluster munitions by government and non-government forces was reported in seven villages in eastern Ukraine in January and February, killing at least 13 civilians (HRW, 19/03/2015).

Updated: 12/05/2015
President Martelly appointed a unity government on 19 January, and on 22 January the new Prime Minister set up a new electoral council (AFP, 22/01/2015). A calendar for legislative, presidential, and local elections was formally presented on 12 March; the first round is scheduled to start on 9 August. Elections have been delayed since 2011, leading to tensions and opposition demonstrations in the country, most significantly in January (AFP, 20/04/2015; UN, 18/03/2015).

Armed criminal violence is reportedly increasing in Haiti (Alter Press, 24/02/2015). While the UN stabilisation mission, MINUSTAH, maintains police in regions, the Haitian National Police is not yet fully capable of dealing with civil unrest (OCHA, 31/07/2014).

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Access

A UN peacekeeper was killed on 14 April near Ouanaminthe in Nord-Est department, during a violent protest to authorities’ lack of solutions for the recurring lack of electricity (UN, 14/04/2015).

The number of humanitarian actors has continued to decrease, from 512 in 2010 to 147 by the end of 2014, and government capacity has not always improved, creating critical sectoral gaps (OCHA/UN, 31/12/2014). The UN launched a Transitional Appeal Process in March, requiring USD 401 million, in an effort to address basic development challenges that result in persistent humanitarian needs and risks (OCHA/UNCT, 11/03/2015). Between 20 April and July, the UN peacekeeping force will be cut in half again, to 2,350 (AFP, 20/04/2015).

Disasters

Heavy rainfall leading to flooding in Ouest and Grande Anse departments over 4-5 April killed six and affected nearly 50,000 people. 8,800 houses were damaged, including 85% in Cité Soleil in Ouest department (OCHA, 20/04/2015; UN, 15/04/2015).

Displacement

IDPs

As of 31 March, 64,680 IDPs remain in 66 camps following the 2010 earthquake, including 43% in Delmas (27,914), 16% in Croix des Bouquets (10,636), and 9% in Port au Prince (6,114). Some 56 camps are targeted for closure, affecting 16,760 IDPs (CCCM, 27/01/2015). 39 IDP sites closed between 1 Jan - 31 March (IOM, 31/03/2015).

Basic services in camps have declined faster than the pace of return or relocation. Only one-third of camps have access to water and access to healthcare is problematic due to lack of infrastructure and funding (OCHA/UN, 31/12/2014). As of end 2014, priority needs included the provision of minimum basic services, protection monitoring, and promotion of durable solutions (OCHA, 03/11/2014).

Food Security

An estimated three million Haitians have both chronic and acute humanitarian needs, and are facing displacement, food insecurity, and malnutrition. Haiti’s political and economic situation is extremely fragile, and the country is vulnerable to natural disasters, including hurricanes, floods, earthquakes, landslides, and droughts. The resilience of the population is extremely low.
Basic food prices have reportedly increased since January, up 30-40% for some, as a result of depleted food stocks. The combined effect of food prices, erratic rains, and lack of investment in the agricultural sector may shift poor households in Sud-Est, Nord-Ouest and Artibonite from Stressed (IPC Phase 2) to Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food insecurity between May and June (FEWSNET, 08/05/2015).

As of end 2014, 605,000 Haitians were food insecure, including 165,000 in Crisis due to early exhaustion of food stocks as a result of the drought (OCHA/UN, 31/12/2014).

Agricultural Outlook

The rainy season in most of the country is late. In parts of Grand-Anse, Sud, Sud-Est, and Ouest departments it is 1-2 weeks late; it is up to four weeks late in the Nord-Est department, and hasn’t started at all in Artibonite department. This has delayed planting activities in some areas (FEWSNET, 20/04/2015). Urgent agricultural support is required in Cap-Haitien, Gonaives, Ouanaminthe, Thomazeau, and Plateau Central (Alter Press, 25/03/2015).

Health and Nutrition

Five million Haitians (half of the total population) lack access to basic health services (UN, 27/10/2014). Some hospitals have still not been fully rehabilitated since the earthquake (MSF, 08/01/2015). Lack of mental health support is also reported (Alter Press, 10/01/2015).

Cholera

The upward trend in incidence continues in 2015, with 11,400 new cholera cases reported, including 105 deaths, from January–March, a 300% increase compared to the same period in 2014 (OCHA, 31/03/2015). In March alone there were 3,040 cases reported (OCHA, 31/03/2015). Ten communes in Nord, Ouest, Artibonite, Centre and Nippes departments have been placed on red alert (Alter Press, 13/04/2015).

27,753 suspected cases of cholera and 296 deaths were recorded in 2014, a 53% and 50% reduction on 2013, respectively; an increase was reported over September–November however, with 918 weekly cases on average, compared to 251 in the previous months (PAHO, 30/01/2015; 02/12/2014).

Nearly 733,000 suspected cholera cases and 8,930 deaths have been reported since the start of the epidemic in October 2010 (OCHA, 07/04/2015).

Nutrition

At March, 85,000 children suffered from acute malnutrition, including 17,000 requiring immediate assistance (OCHA/UNCT, 11/03/2015).

Malnutrition rates in IDP camps are of great concern. In May, GAM in 20 camps stood at 12.5% (OCHA, 20/08/2014).

WASH

More than 3.4 million Haitians lack access to safe water (one-third of the total population and 47% of the rural population) (UN, 30/09/2014). 38% do not have access to improved water sources and 69% lack access to improved sanitation (World Bank, 30/09/2014). 60% of schools have no toilets and more than three-quarters lack access to water (HRW, 08/10/2014). Waterborne diseases are one of the main causes of infant mortality (World Bank, 09/10/2014).

Shelter

The majority of remaining IDP sites are in Port-au-Prince (21), Delmas (15), and Leogane (11). 59% of sites are tents and make-shift centres, 9% are mixed sites and 32% transitional shelters (IOM, 31/03/2015).

96% of people left homeless by the 2010 earthquake have been relocated outside camps (IOM, 31/03/2015). Overall, 3.5 million Haitians live in precarious neighbourhoods and informal settlements in urban areas, suffering from socio-economic deprivation, and elevated risk of disaster impacts and forced eviction. Around a third do not have legitimate status/rights for the land they occupy. Land disputes and tensions are common and have been accompanied by coercion, violence and forced eviction (OCHA/UNCT, 11/03/2015).

Protection

Children

Five years since the earthquake, many children still show signs of emotional and psychological stress and remain in need of protection; minors in camps are particularly at risk of exploitation, with sexual violence commonplace (Save the Children, 08/01/2015).

Risk of Deportation

Hundreds of Haitians living irregularly in the Dominican Republic, and more than 300,000 Dominicans of Haitian descent, are at risk of forced expulsion beginning 16 June, when the regularisation process will end (OCHA, 26/03/2015). Some 6,880 irregular migrants were repatriated to Ouanaminthe commune in the first four months of 2015, more than half of them in April alone. Some 5,570 irregular migrants were repatriated to total in 2014 (Alter Press, 08/05/2015).

In total, an estimated 600,000 Haitian nationals or people of Haitian descent face an elevated risk of forced expulsion and deportations from countries of the Caribbean region. Most of them are unable to obtain birth certificates (OCHA/UNCT, 11/03/2015).

Sexual and Gender-based Violence

The number of rapes reported in the first half of 2014 was double that of the same period in 2013. More than two-thirds of the rapes reported involved minors (OHCHR and Protection Cluster, 30/06/2014). Gender-based violence continues to be of great concern in IDP camps (OHCHR/MINUSTAH/Protection Cluster, 30/06/2014).

Updated, 13/05/2015
KIRIBATI CYCLONE

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS
No significant developments this week, 13/05/2015. Last updated 30/04/2015.

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Disaster

Category 5 Tropical Cyclone Pam caused severe bad weather on the islands of Kiribati. 4m waves and heavy rain were experienced on 11–13 March, causing widespread coastal flooding, with damage in the capital, Tarawa (UNICEF, 15/03/2015; Red Cross Movement, 16/03/2015). The southern islands, including Tamana and Arorae, were especially affected by high tides exacerbated by strong winds (FAO, 23/03/2015; international media, 16/03/2015). The storm hit after several weeks of severe flooding (international media, 16/03/2015).

In early April, IFRC estimated the cyclone may have affected up to 4,000 people, but preliminary results indicate the number of affected households is less than anticipated (USAID, 13/04/2015; international organisation, 23/04/2015). Results of initial assessments show that affected people still need assistance accessing water, sanitation, and food (UNICEF, 27/04/2015). Emergency relief items, food rations and WASH supplies are being provided (USAID, 13/04/2015). Key priorities on Tamana Island are water, NFIs and sanitation. On Arorae Island, immediate needs include water and water containers, latrines and kitchen utensils (Red Cross Movement, 10/04/2015).

Access

Extensive damage was caused to the Dai Nippon causeway, an important connection between Betio town and Bairiki in the most populated Tarawa atoll. Temporarily closed, it re-opened at limited capacity a few days after the storm (international media, 16/03/2015). The Onotoa Island causeway was damaged, preventing vehicles from crossing to the islet (UNICEF, 24/03/2015). There has also been damage to major bridges, disruption to communications, and constraints on travel. There is only one ferry (OCHA, 22/03/2015). In Betio, power and mobile phone networks have been working intermittently (Red Cross Movement, 16/03/2015).

Recovery work has been made more difficult by the high tides, as a lot of coastal infrastructure has been affected (international media, 24/03/2015). Food Security

Seawater has heavily impacted food crops and other valuable plants, and salinization means large areas cannot now be cultivated. Food crops at the shoreline were uprooted or wiped out. The impact on food security is significant, as most families cultivate fruit trees and food plants around their homes (FAO, 23/03/2015).

Health

The Betio national hospital, Tarawa, was damaged, requiring temporary relocation of patients. Some ten days after the storm the hospital was running again at its usual location, but much of its equipment has been damaged (international media, 24/03/2015).

In the week to 19 April, 126 cases of diarrhoea were reported in the country (WHO, 19/04/2015). An outbreak of chikungunya virus was declared in most of the outer islands. Two of the islands have reported more than 200 cases (international media, 27/04/2015).

On Tamana Island, six children under five have been reported with diarrhoea and vomiting (Red Cross Movement, 10/04/2015).

Shelter and NFIs

According to UNICEF, on the southern island of Tamana, around 65 houses were reportedly destroyed. Affected families are staying with host families and relocating inland. Another 41 houses were flooded. 407 people were affected by damage to their homes (UNICEF, 24/03/2015; Red Cross Movement, 10/04/2015). On the Arorae Island some 20 houses were destroyed, and the affected families have found temporary shelter in schools and community centres (UNICEF, 13/04/2015).

Other sources indicate the damage on Tamana and Arorae Islands is much more extensive. Hundreds of homes have been destroyed, leaving about half the communities on both islands displaced (international media, 24/03/2015; USAID, 13/04/2015).

In many villages seawalls have collapsed, allowing high tides and storm surges to flood and damage property (UNICEF, 14/03/2015; international media, 12/03/2015; international media, 16/03/2015). Strong winds have also caused damage, prompting families to relocate (Red Cross Movement, 16/03/2015).
Local sources report the main concerns on Tamana and Arorae Islands are fresh water and sanitation (international media, 24/03/2015). Freshwater wells have filled with seawater (UNICEF, 24/03/2015). Toilets and latrines have been destroyed on Tamana island, leaving those rebuilding their houses without sanitation. Many people are practicing open defecation. 51 wells were severely damaged and require rehabilitation (UNICEF, 08/04/2015; Red Cross Movement, 10/04/2015).

Assessments are still underway on Arorae island.

Red Cross staff returning from the outer islands of Kiribati reported an urgent need for water pumps. Wells that were damaged or affected by the waves have been contaminated, with high concentrations of E. coli and salt water. Affected communities requested support to repair and construct toilets (UNICEF, 22/04/2015).

Education

Schools are open but lack of transportation means a lot of children cannot reach school (UNICEF, 17/03/2015). Updated 30/04/2015.

For more information, visit the ACAPS country analysis page.

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Disasters

Category five Tropical Cyclone Pam hit Vanuatu in the evening of 13 March 2015, with winds of more than 250km/hr. It has affected the entire country, but particularly the central and southern provinces. 188,000 people on 22 islands were affected by the cyclone and are in need of assistance (Government, 17/04/2015). 11 people died (Le Monde with AFP, 20/03/2015). Damage is widespread and severe. The worst impacted provinces include Shefa, Tafea, Malampa and Penama (Government, 16/03/2015). Other reports also indicate that Tanna Island has been severely hit. (Radio New Zealand, 01/04/2015). Preliminary estimates place the total economic value of effects caused by Cyclone at nearly US$400 million or nearly 50% of Vanuatu’s GDP (Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme, 06/05/2015).

Access

The chair of the New Zealand Disaster Relief Forum says transport and communication challenges have prevented aid from reaching some communities (Radio New Zealand, 09/04/2015). The Government of Vanuatu still requires Emergency and Telecommunications support and maintenance on Tanna (ECT, 29/04/2015).

Food Security

Food shortages are a serious concern for the majority of the population. In all provinces, much of the population will be without local staple food supply until at least mid-June, when fast-growing crops can be harvested if replanting starts immediately (FAO, 23/03/2015).

Agriculture

In Vanuatu, around 80% of the population relies on agriculture for their livelihoods; 70% of the rural population depends on subsistence farming (OCHA, 02/04/2015; WFP, 31/03/2015; FAO, 23/03/2015). Cyclone Pam destroyed approximately 96% of crops in the country (OCHA, 02/04/2015). In the affected areas, as much as 75% of coconut, 80% of coffee, 80% of leaf vegetables, 70% of taro and 65% of kumala was irretrievably damaged. Agricultural equipment and assets worth over VT 34,500,000 (USD 330,400) were damaged or destroyed. Pigs (69%), poultry (26%), fishing equipment and bee hives (5%) were all significantly affected, with a devastating impact on the availability of protein for households (Government, 17/04/2015).

Tafea, Shefa and Malampa provinces were the most impacted. 90–95% of farming and fishing equipment has been destroyed in the Shepherd Islands and the outer islands surrounding Efate (OCHA, 02/04/2015).

Health and Nutrition

On affected islands, 70 of the 71 health facilities (not including first aid posts) were assessed and 54 had minor or no damage; six were destroyed and ten severely damaged. As of 17 April, 64 facilities are functioning, partially or fully. The Tafea and Shefa provinces are most affected (Health cluster, 11/04/2015, Government, 17/04/2015).

Acute diarrhoea cases numbers are stabilising. Cases of bloody diarrhoea are reported in Tanna and Efate (Health Cluster, 02/05/2015; 11/05/2015). 45 cases of acute fever and rash (AFR) on Erromango were diagnosed as chicken pox. AFR numbers are stabilising after the increase. Cases of the rare mosquito-borne Zika virus have been confirmed (Australian Broadcasting Corporation, 28/04/2015; Health Cluster, 11/05/2015). Symptoms of Zika virus are relatively mild.

It is expected that at least 50% of children under five (17,000 children) will be at risk of worsening childhood illnesses and nutritional status (OCHA 15/03/2015). Measles is present in Vanuatu, and a breakdown in sanitation could facilitate transmission (UNICEF 15/03/2015). Immunisation and child nutrition are priorities (OCHA 15/03/2015).

Nutrition

Adequate nutrition is required for over 160,000 affected people, in particular nutritional support for pregnant and lactating women and children under five years (OCHA, 03/04/2015). 35 children, aged 6-59 months, were admitted for inpatient treatment for severe acute malnutrition in Santo, Tanna, and Port Vila (Health Cluster, 02/05/2015;
Health Cluster, 11/05/2015).

Shelter and NFIs

Approximately 13,574 houses were damaged (Government 17/04/2015). More than 70% of houses on Tanna, Erromango and Emae have been destroyed or seriously damaged. Between 40% and 70% of houses have been destroyed or seriously damaged in East Ambrym, Paama and the Shepherd Islands (WFP, 31/03/2015). As of 1 April, OCHA estimates that 75,000 people are in need of shelter assistance (OCHA, 01/04/2015). As of 17 April, the Government highlights that gaps remain on Tanna and urban Port Vila (Government, 17/04/2015).

WASH

A second harmonised assessment released 17 April showed that two-thirds of the communities surveyed had severe WASH needs requiring immediate attention (Government, 17/04/2015).

Water

110,000 people are in need of clean drinking water (OCHA, 03/04/2015). A tenfold increase in WASH supplies will be needed for the next 2–3 months (OCHA 15/03/2015). More than 50% of the communities reported access to less than three litres of drinking water a day. An estimated 68% of the rainwater harvesting catchment structures are broken, 70% of the wells have been contaminated, and piped water systems have been damaged.

The provinces of Tafea and Shefa have much less access to water than Penama and Malampa. In particular, north Tanna and the Shepherd Islands (Mataso, Tongariki, Puninga) have poor access to fresh water (Government, 17/04/2015; Logistics Cluster, 28/04/2015). Water quality is poor everywhere except Port Vila, but only half of the households reported using water treatment methods. Health risk is high (Government, 17/04/2015).

Sanitation and hygiene

68% of the sanitation superstructures have been destroyed, such that open defecation was reported to be up to 45% in Tafea. Open defecation presents urgent health, protection and dignity risks to children, women, and vulnerable groups (Government, 17/04/2015).

Nearly half of the households have access to soap, but less than 30% are using it. Use of soap was as low as 7% in Penama. Two-thirds of communities did not have access to sanitary protection materials for girls and women, especially in Malampa (Government, 17/04/2015).

Education

More than half (53%) of all assessed primary and secondary schools were found to have been affected: 16% have been destroyed; 24% have sustained major damage; 13% have sustained minor damages (Government, 17/04/2015). Latest assessments indicate 60,000 school-aged children have been affected (UNICEF, 22/04/2015).

Most of the schools in the Tafea province and half of the schools in Shefa province were damaged (Government, 17/04/2015). Materials and resources in many schools have been damaged and are needed, in addition to regular supplies (OCHA, 01/04/2015).

Protection

Displacement continues to be a concern with some people still in unofficial temporary shelters. There are gaps in communication and a lack of information about remote affected communities. Physical security for the affected population is at risk with increased crime rates in the aftermath of the cyclone. Assessment identified a gap in attention toward housing, land and property issues. Reporting mechanisms and support services for survivors of gender-based violence or child abuse are inadequate. Targeted assistance is needed for persons living with disabilities, female headed households and older persons (Government, 17/04/2015).

Updated: 11/05/2015

SOUTH AMERICA

COLOMBIA CONFLICT, DROUGHT, DISPLACEMENT, INSECURITY

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

No significant developments this week, 13/05/2015. Last update 30/04/2015.

KEY CONCERNS

- 4.8 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance (OCHA, 10/05/2015).
- 5.7 million cumulative IDPs, including 224,300 in 2014 (IDMC, 10/2014; HDMX, 2015).
- From January-March 2015, 186,390 people have been trapped in their communities due to armed violence (OCHA, 18/04/2015).
- Approximately 1.3 million people are affected by natural disasters (flood, wind, heat
wave, drought) every year (OCHA, 24/02/2015).

OVERVIEW

Five decades of armed violence coupled with the country’s frequent natural disasters have had serious humanitarian consequences. Forced displacement, landmine contamination, and gender-based violence are among the major concerns. For rural communities, movement restrictions by armed groups limit access to basic health services, crops and labour markets, especially in the country’s Pacific region.

Political Context

Colombia’s armed conflict has spanned five decades, pitting the central government against armed groups such as the Armed Revolutionary Forces of Colombia – People’s Army (FARC-EP) and the National Liberation Army (ELN). Created by landless peasants, the FARC-EP stated aim is to “end social, political, and economic inequalities”. The ELN was founded on Marxist-Leninist ideals (In Sight Crime). Attempts at peace negotiations in the 1980s and 1998-2000 failed. The latest FARC-EP–Government peace negotiations began in November 2012 in Havana, Cuba. Agreements have been reached on agrarian reform, political participation, and illicit drugs. Negotiations resumed on 2 February and will focus on the end of the armed conflict (World Bulletin, 20/01/2014; AFP, 02/02/2015). Another round of peace talks began on 25 February prior to the arrival of former UN Secretary General, Kofi Annan, to Cuba (International media, 25/02/2015). On 3 March, the FARC-EP declared a peace agreement wouldn’t be signed if its members were to be tried and jailed (AFP, 03/03/2015).

Security Context

The intensity of the armed conflict has decreased substantially since peace negotiations began in 2012. Disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration programmes have been operational since 2003: 56,903 people have been demobilised from armed groups, including 47,770 people who have gone through reintegration programmes with the Colombian Reintegration Agency (Government, 16/12/2014).

Nonetheless, violence and insecurity persist, including kidnappings and extortion by armed groups and BACRIM.

On 20 December 2014, FARC-EP announced a unilateral ceasefire (Washington Office on Latin America, 2014). On 7 February, the FARC-EP stated that it would be ready to give up its arms and become a political party if the Colombian Government meets its side of recent agreements, which include a bilateral ceasefire, the suspension of investments in mining projects, and the reform of armed forces and state security (El Espectador, 07/02/2015). A month later, the Colombian Government and FARC-EP agreed to remove landmines and explosives, with a target of 2025 to complete demining (Reuters, 09/03/2015). On 10 March, the Colombian Government declared it would halt bombing raids against FARC-EP for one month (Al Jazeera, 11/03/2015; BBC, 11/03/2015). On 19 March, the FARC-EP threatened to end the unilateral ceasefire unless the President called off all attacks, stating that while air raids had stopped, other offensive manoeuvres had continued (Reuters, 19/03/2015). On 9 April, the President announced an extension to the suspended air strikes against the FARC-EP. The suspension was lifted, however, following an attack by the FARC-EP, which left eleven soldiers dead and eighteen wounded in Cauca department (local media, 15/04/2015).

Despite the recent attack on the Colombian armed forces by the FARC-EP, both the government and the armed group remain committed to continuing the peace negotiations (Reuters, 21/04/2015; Colombia Reports, 21/04/2015).

Stakeholders

FARC-EP: The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia – People’s Army (FARC-EP) is the oldest left-wing militant group in Colombia. It was formed in 1964 by the Colombian Communist Party as a result of rural unrest from fighting between the liberal and conservative parties. Approximately 7,000 fighters make up the FARC-EP today, which allegedly makes between USD 500 and 600 million in profits from the illicit drug trade (UNRIC 2013; BBC 29/08/2013). The FARC-EP has been active throughout the country, but especially in Arauca, Meta, Norte de Santander, Cauca and Antioquia. In November 2012, the group joined peace negotiations with the Government.

ELN: The National Liberation Army is a left-wing militant group formed in 1965 and composed of 1,500 fighters. On 7 January, it stated that it intended to join the peace talks and would consider disarmament (AFP, 07/01/2015; BBC, 07/01/2015). The ELN has been active in Arauca, Norte de Santander, Nariño and Cauca Departments (Kienyke, 2013).

Government forces: The Government of Colombia’s strategies to combat non-state armed groups have been closely linked to eliminating the cultivation of illicit crops in the country, which finance the armed groups.

BACRIM and post-demobilised armed groups: Criminal gangs (bandas criminales) under the names Black Eagles, Erpac, and Rastrojos, among others, are generally made up of former paramilitary fighters and another former armed group, the United Armed Forces of Colombia (AUC). They are involved in drug-trafficking and extortion throughout the country and in Venezuela and Panama. These groups are particularly active in Antioquia department, as well as the Pacific and Caribbean regions (BBC 29/08/2013).

Conflict Developments

During the fourth quarter of 2014, Antioquia, Cauca, Arauca, Meta, and Norte de Santander departments were the most affected by armed activity (OCHA, 07/01/2015). Following the FARC-EP’s unilateral ceasefire in mid-December, the number of violent incidents related to the armed conflict has dropped to levels not seen since the 1980s (Missionary International Service News Agency, 12/01/2015).

Recent Incidents

On 14 April, an attack by the FARC-EP left 11 soldiers dead in Cauca department; in nearby Suarez municipality five civilians were killed by an unidentified group (local media, 15/04/2015; 16/04/2015). The FARC-EP recommitted to the unilateral ceasefire in the days following the attack in Cauca department (International organisations, 21/04/2015).

On 6 April, three police officers were killed by an unidentified armed group in Norte de
Three FARC-EP fighters and one soldier were killed on 22 March when members of the FARC-EP were caught collecting an extortion payment from a farmer (local media, 23/03/2015). A suspected ELN attack against the police in Bogotá in March resulted in eight injured (local media, 12/03/2015).

**Humanitarian Context and Needs**

4.8 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance in Colombia, including 1.3 million affected by natural disasters, 1.3 million people in areas with confinement and access constraints, 900,000 IDPs, and 1.1 million people in host communities (OCHA, 01/05/2015).

As of January 2015, 262,000 people are in trapped communities, primarily in Chocó department and made up mostly of indigenous communities and Afro-Colombians (OCHA, 20/01/2015).

**Access**

**Trapped Communities**

As of May, OCHA reports 1.3 million people affected by confinement and access constraints (OCHA, 01/05/2015).

From January-March, 186,390 people have been affected by access and mobility constraints, including 28,790 who were affected by access constraints in March (OCHA, 18/04/2015). Since end February, movement has been restricted and humanitarian assistance blocked for 1,200 members of indigenous and farming communities in Cacereñas, Antioquia department, due to fear of potential clashes between ELN and a ‘demobilised’ armed group (OCHA, 11/03/2015). A community of 912 Eperera Siapidara, an indigenous people, are confined to a rural zone in Timbiquí, Cauca department, due to security threats – school was cancelled and daily activities ceased (OCHA, 19/03/2015). Some 990 people are confined to their homes in Bagado, Choco department, due to a military offensive on the ELN from end March to 19 April (OCHA, 27/04/2015).

**Disasters**

From January 2014 to February 2015, 1.3 million people were affected by natural disasters (OCHA, 24/02/2015). In March, 22,370 people were affected by natural disasters (OCHA, 18/04/2015).

**Drought**

In January and February, the prolonged drought, primarily in the Caribbean coast, affected 86,500 people. It limited access to water, affected food security, health services, and education because classes were cancelled (OCHA, 28/02/2015). Six forest fires have been reported in the department of Antioquia (Ituango, Anzá, Urrao, Caicedo, Itagui and Medellín municipalities). 24 of the southwestern municipalities are on red alert (PAHO, 13/03/2015).

As of early April, more than 600 emergencies have been recorded due to forest fires in southern Atlantic department (Manatí, Candelaria, Suan, and Campo de la Cruz municipalities).

**Floods**

Heavy rains affected 1,200 people and killed one in the departments of Tolima, Valle del Cauca, and Caldas on 22 March, marking the beginning of the rainy season. Many houses were destroyed and the Cañoaveral River in Valle del Cauca department overflowed (RedHum, 23/03/2015). On 21 March, 100 people were affected by a landslide in Bogotá. Three people were injured and 150 houses were damaged in Bogotá (ECHO, 27/03/2015).

Some 2,000 people were trapped when heavy April rains caused the San Juan, Taparto and Santa Rita rivers to overflow, destroying buildings and bridges in Antioquia department (PAHO, 14/04/2015).

Nariño department has been one of the most affected by heavy rains in terms of damaged infrastructure and livelihoods; more than 400 people have been left without shelter (El Espectador, 21/04/2015).

**Displacement**

**IDPs**

Colombia has 5.7 million IDPs (IDMC, 10/2014). In 2014, there were 224,300 new IDPs (OCHA, 20/01/2015), compared to 228,526 in 2013 (Reuters, 25/02/2015). 39% of the IDP caseload between 2012 and June 2014 was concentrated in the Pacific region. In 2014, new displacement was primarily concentrated in Cauca and Chocó (OCHA, 07/01/2015). 79,989 people below the age of 18 were displaced during 2014 (OCHA, 01/05/2015).

The total number of people displaced by armed violence from January-March 2015 was 3,040, including 1,470 who were displaced in March. This is an 8% reduction compared to September-December 2014 (OCHA, 18/04/2015). OCHA reports that those responsible are primarily the ELN, post-demobilised armed groups and other unidentified armed groups (OCHA, 18/04/2015).

**Chocó:** 655 people were displaced at end February from rural communities in Bajo Baudó, Chocó department due to clashes between the ELN and a post-demobilised armed group. Those affected include five indigenous Embera communities and three Afro-descendant communities. More than 1,000 others are trapped and at risk of displacement. Access to the region is difficult, and populations have limited access to food, water, education, and health services (OCHA, 04/03/2015; 06/04/2015). 711 indigenous people from five communities in Bagado, Choco department were displaced due to a military offensive against the ELN from end March to 19 April (OCHA, 27/04/2015).

**Guaviere and Meta:** Two minority groups, the Nukak (120 people), at risk of extinction, and the Jiw (136 people), who were displaced from 2001–2005, are in Guaviere and Meta departments, respectively, and require assistance with shelter, WASH, and education. The Jiw community in Puerto Concordia, Meta, also needs seeds for food security and livelihoods (OCHA, 21/03/2015; 31/02/2015).
Antioquia: 145 people from Angostura municipality, Antioquia department were displaced due to clashes between armed forces and armed groups (Instituto Popular de Capacitacion, 23/04/2015).

Cauca: 909 indigenous people have been displaced due to the presence of an unidentified armed group on the reserve Calle Santa Rosa, Timbiqui municipality, since 3 March (OCHA, 22/04/2015).

Returnees
206 Embera Katio, an indigenous people, will return to Pueblo Rico municipality in Antioquia department (Government, 19/03/2015).

Colombian Refugees in Neighbouring Countries
400,000 Colombians have sought refuge in neighbouring countries. Some 900–1,000 arrive in Ecuador every month; the rate has dropped by 30% since 2012 (Nuevo Municipio, 26/11/2014).

Food Security
1.2 million people are food insecure, due to in part to low food production, poverty and internal displacement from conflict (OCHA, 20/01/2015; USAID). 557,000 require food assistance. Indigenous communities in Nariño are among the most affected (OCHA, 20/01/2015).

Health and Nutrition
Only 30% of victims of armed conflict have access to healthcare (OCHA, 20/01/2015).

Chikungunya
At least 213,000 people have been infected with chikungunya, including 90,000 who are predicted to suffer from long-term arthritis as a side-effect of the disease. The outbreak began in September 2014 (local media, 19/03/2015; 12/03/2015). The Caribbean region is the most affected (local media, 19/03/2015).

30,230 cases of chikungunya were reported from November 2014 until April 2015 in the Valle del Cauca department (local media, 07/04/2015).

WASH
1.1 million people are in need of WASH (OCHA, 20/01/2015). Only 35.5% of the population consumes safe drinking water, with only 15% of rural areas consuming treated water (OCHA, 20/01/2015).

Flooded in Quibdo, Bojaya, and Alto Baudo (Choco department), has caused river sedimentation, cutting off access to water (OCHA, 03/02/2015).

Attacks on the petroleum industry in Putumayo department in 2014 are still affecting nearby communities, who have little access to water. Some companies have taken charge by providing each family with 20–40L of water per week, which is below standard (OCHA, 23/04/2015).

The indigenous communities on the reserve Calle Santa Rosa rely on four water tanks that do not meet their needs, resulting in use of river water contaminated by mining activity (OCHA, 22/04/2015).

Shelter and NFIs
916,000 people need shelter (OCHA, 20/01/2015). Many of those displaced by armed conflict come from rural areas and have difficulty re-obtaining rights to their homes upon their return. A legal process is in place in the departments of Atlantico and Magdalena in northern Colombia, though some claimants have received threats from paramilitary groups (Amnesty, 23/01/2015).

Protection
Afro-Colombians and indigenous peoples are highly vulnerable groups, as they are minorities and generally live in areas more likely to be trapped by conflict (NRC, 09/2014).

According to the World Organisation against Torture, torture and ill-treatment in various forms are being practiced abundantly in Colombia, and measures for protection and compensation are either very limited or ineffective, resulting in impunity for those crimes. These include: abuses by paramilitary and criminal gangs; extrajudicial killings; sexual abuse in conflict; child soldiers, mass arrests; mass detentions by law enforcement officers, enforced disappearances; extradition and diplomatic assurances, trafficking in persons, and the detention of women in male detention facilities. Overcrowding in prisons had reached dire levels, where detainees on average had sleeping areas of 50 to 60 square centimetres (World Organisation against Torture, 01/05/2015).

In 2014, there were 626 registered attacks against human rights defenders, a 147% increase compared to 2013. 73% of attacks were carried out by post-demobilised armed groups. Many local NGOs are concerned that successful peace negotiations may not result in a decrease in such attacks (OCHA, 28/02/2015).

Child Protection
There are approximately 2,000 underage fighters in the FARC. The government is urging for their release (Reuters, 15/04/2015).

Reports show that since peace negotiations began in 2012, 76% of children fighting with the FARC-EP and 18% with the ELN have been reintegrated into society (UNICEF, 2014).

Sexual and Gender-based Violence
52% of displaced women have suffered some type of sexual violence after displacement, according to a study by OHCHR. Women in the Pacific region are particularly affected (NRC, 09/2014).
BOLIVIA DROUGHT, FLOODS

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

9 May: 3,500 cases of chikungunya have been confirmed in Santa Cruz (local media).

8 May: 1,380 families (5,934 individuals) and 30 hectares of crop have been affected by flooding in Cochabamba (government).

KEY CONCERNS

- 1159,100 people affected by heavy rains, 32 people have died and six are missing (ECHO, 14/04/2015).
- Around 130,000 affected by drought (Government, Media, 10/12/2014).
- A series of natural disasters has affected Bolivia since the beginning of the rainy season in October 2013 and has had a severe impact on livelihoods and food security.

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Disasters

Drought

Around 130,000 people have been affected by drought, including an estimated 20,000 farmers (Government, 05/01/2015).

Estimates indicate that close to 63,000 hectares of crops, including rice, maize, and cassava, have been negatively impacted. Another 120,000 hectares of soy have been lost in Cuatro Canadas and Pailon, Santa Cruz (local media, 22/02/2015). Some 1,545 hectares of crops from 461 families (1,844 individuals) are reported to have suffered from drought in Cochabamba (local media, 28/04/2015).

The Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock estimates that 132 municipalities have an 80% risk of major drought, while 90 municipalities have a 50% risk of flooding. Departments most at risk are Beni, Pando, and Santa Cruz (local media, 28/04/2015).

The floods in Bolivia’s Amazon valleys, lowlands, and plains during the October 2013 –March 2014 rains were the worst in 60 years, affecting an estimated 325,000 people (OCHA 06/2014; ACT Alliance, 24/09/2014).

Landslides

In Cochabamba, 66 people were evacuated due to the landslide risk where their homes are located (Government, 09/04/2015).

Access

On 27 February, a bridge connecting Cochabamba to Santa Cruz was destroyed. Reconstruction of this bridge will take six months, and metal bridges will be set up in the meantime (Government, 05/03/2015). Heavy rains on 27 March required the temporary bridge to be blocked (local media, 28/03/2015). As of 27 March, there were three routes closed to traffic: Siles-Paraiso in Beni department; Route 4 in Espiritu Santo II and Villa Tunari in Cochabamba department; and Route 25 Abra Pooa-Licoma in La Paz department (local media, 28/03/2015). In Chuquisaca department, heavy rains and landslides have damaged numerous roads in the Heredia stretch of San Juan del Pirai (Government, 09/03/2015).

Food Security

In Azurduy municipality, Chuquisaca department, more than 2,000 families have missed the planting season due to heavy rains and crops were severely impacted (local media, 02/02/2015).

Health and Nutrition

As of 9 May, 3,500 cases of chikungunya have been confirmed in Santa Cruz. No state of emergency has been declared. In April, 15 cases were imported in Cochabamba (Government, 09/05/2015; local media, 09/05/2015).

Between January and April 2015, 100 cases of dengue were reported in Beni department and there were 206 suspected cases (Government, 24/02/2015; 08/05/2015). As of 21 April, 6,542 cases of respiratory infections have been reported, reaching the epidemic threshold. Some 49,000 cases were reported during the same period last year (international media, 21/04/2015).

WASH

Hailstorms have damaged 400 families’ (1,600 individuals) agricultural production in Potosí as well as 42.75 hectares in Cochabamba (Local media, 28/04/2015; Government, 28/04/2015).

On 21 April, flooding in Guanay, La Paz province, affected 150 people and damaged 15 houses (local media, 21/04/2015). As of 5 May, flooding is reported in Cochabamba, Santa Cruz, Beni, Pando y Chuquisaca, where an orange alert declared. 1380 families (5,934 individuals) and 30 hectares of crop have been affected (local media, 05/05/2015; Government, 08/05/2015).

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Water is still cut off in municipalities affected by the rains (UN, 05/03/2015). Shelters do not have proper waste collection and the number of functioning latrines is limited (UN, 05/03/2015).

Updated: 13/05/2015
Introduction to the Global Emergency Overview

The Global Emergency Overview (GEO) is a weekly update that provides a snapshot of current humanitarian priorities and recent events. Its primary objective is to rapidly inform humanitarian decision makers by presenting a summary of major humanitarian crises, both recent and protracted. It collates information from a wide range of sources, including Reliefweb and media, and displays this information to enable quick comparison of different humanitarian crises. It is designed to provide answers to four questions:

1. Which humanitarian crises currently exist? (World map)
2. What has happened in the last seven days? (Snapshot and Latest Developments)
3. What is the situation in the country affected by a crisis? (Latest Developments and Narrative)
4. Which countries could be prioritised in terms of humanitarian response? (Prioritisation)

The world map and the table provide an overview of how the countries are prioritised. The countries are subdivided by four priority levels: "watch list", "situation of concern", "humanitarian crisis", and "severe humanitarian crisis".

The priority levels are assigned on the basis of:

- the number of people affected by recent disasters
- the level of access to the affected population
- the under-5 mortality rate
- the level of development of the country
- the number of protracted IDPs and refugees.

If a country experienced a disaster in the seven days prior to an update or witnessed an escalation of an ongoing crisis, a country is highlighted by a yellow dot on the map.

The snapshot briefly describes major events in the seven days to the date of publication.

Narratives for each country in the GEO reflect major developments and underlying vulnerabilities of the country over recent months. They are based on secondary data. The latest developments for each country cover the incidents over the past seven days, and key concerns highlight humanitarian priorities.

More information on the Global Emergency Overview Methodology can be found in the Global Overview Methodology Brief and the Frequently Asked Questions.

The Global Emergency Overview is a mobile application.

To download the mobile application for Android phones click here.


To download the mobile application for iOS phones click here.


Updates

The Global Emergency Overview prioritisation will be updated once a week and the results will be available every Tuesday. In case of major new humanitarian events or an escalation of an ongoing crisis which triggers a change of prioritisation, the Global Overview will be updated on an ad hoc basis.

Disclaimer

While ACAPS has defined a methodology striving to ensure accuracy, the information provided is indicative and should not be used in isolation from alternative sources of information for any decision making. ACAPS is not responsible for any damage or loss resulting from the use of the information presented on this website.